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REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

The History of Persia, from the most early period to the present time. By Major-General Sir John Malcolm, G.C.B. K.L.S. A new Edition, revised and corrected. 2 vols. 8vo. London, 1829. J. Murray.

It is unnecessary now to dwell on the merits of this excellent work—a standard production of our literature: all that remains for us is to express our pleasure at seeing it in another shape and a new edition. Curious in its information, enlightened in its general views, extraordinary as an accurate picture of one of those vast monuments of bigotry and despotism, whose existence seems strange even in the East,—in the *History of Persia* there is “ample space and verge enough” for every theory and discussion that philosopher, moralist, and politician, might choose to erect: but perhaps we had better leave such graver matters, and content ourselves with a selection from the numerous anecdotes which abound in these pages.

“Jemshedd was the first who discovered wine. He was immoderately fond of grapes, and desired to preserve some, which were placed in a large vessel and lodged in a vault for future use. When the vessel was opened, the grapes had fermented: their juice was so acid, that the king believed it must be poisonous: he had some bottles filled with it, and poison written upon each: these were placed in his room. It happened that one of his favourite ladies was affected with nervous headaches: the pain distracted her so much, that she desired death: observing a bottle with poison written on it, she took it and swallowed its contents. The wine, for such it had become, overpowered the lady, who fell into a sound sleep, and awoke much refreshed. Delighted with the remedy, she repeated the doses so often, that the king's poison was all drunk. He soon discovered this, and forced the lady to confess what she had done. A quantity of wine was made; and Jemshedd and all his court drank of the new beverage, which, from the manner of its discovery, is to this day known in Persia by the name of *zeher-e-khoosh*, or the delightful poison. . . . A Persian poet, alluding to the victories which the youthful Feridoon obtained over Zohauk, and to the enchantments by which the latter was guarded, and the manner in which they were overcome by his antagonist, beautifully exclaims: ‘The happy Feridoon was not an angel: he was not formed of mist or amber: it was by his justice and generosity that he gained good and great ends. Be thou just and generous, and thou shalt be a Feridoon.’ . . . Feridoon was the first monarch who ever rode upon an elephant, or brought those animals into use in war. His wisdom and goodness have been universally celebrated. His testament, addressed to his descendants, contained the following admirable lesson to monarchs: ‘Deem every day in your life a leaf in your history: take care, therefore, that nothing be written in it which is not worthy of posterity.’”

There are some amusing traditions about Alexander the Great; our readers may contrast the romantic with the classical history. Respecting the cause of his disagreement with Darab II. the author relates:

“The quarrel, we are told, originated in Alexander refusing to pay the tribute of golden eggs, to which his father had agreed. ‘The bird that laid the eggs has flown to the other world!’ is reported to have been the answer of the Macedonian prince to the Persian envoy who demanded the tribute. After this, Darab sent another ambassador, whom he charged to deliver a bat, a ball, and a bag of very small seed, called *gunjud*. The bat and ball were meant to throw ridicule on Alexander's youth, being a fit amusement for his age. The bag of seed was intended as an emblem of the innumerable Persian army. Alexander took the bat into his hand, and said, ‘This is my power, with which I will strike the ball of your monarch's dominion; and this fowl (he had ordered one to be brought) shall soon shew what a mere morsel his army will prove to mine.’ The grain was instantly eaten up; and Alexander gave a wild melon to the envoy, desiring him to tell his sovereign what he had heard and seen, and to give him that fruit, the taste of which would enable him to judge of the bitter lot that awaited him. . . . The astrologers had foretold, that when Alexander's death was near, he would place his throne where the ground was of iron, and the sky of gold. When the hero, fatigued with conquest, directed his march toward Greece, he was one day seized with a bleeding at the nose. A general, who was near, unlacing his coat of mail, spread it for the prince to sit on; and, to defend him from the sun, held a golden shield over his head. When Alexander saw himself in this situation, he exclaimed, ‘The prediction of the astrologers is accomplished: I no longer belong to the living!’ Alas! that the work of my youth should be finished! Alas! that the plant of the spring should be cut down like the ripened tree of autumn!’ He wrote to his mother, saying, he should shortly quit this earth, and pass to the regions of the dead. He requested, that the alms given on his death should be bestowed on such as had never seen the miseries of this world, and had never lost those who were dear to them. In conformity to his will, his mother sought, but in vain, for such persons: all had tasted the woes and griefs of life; all had lost those whom they loved. She found in this a consolation, as her son had intended, for her great loss. She saw that her own was the common lot of humanity.”

Our next quotations contain some striking traits of courage, wisdom, &c. in Persian emperors.

“A hundred fables are told of the birth and education of Shahpoor, whose mother is said to have been a daughter of Arduan. This princess, according to the *Rozut-ul-Suffa*, was desirous to revenge her family by poisoning Ardisheer. She was discovered in the attempt, and delivered over to a minister to

be put to death; but was secretly preserved, on her declaring herself pregnant. The child, the infant Shahpoor, was carefully reared. The minister who had ventured on this act of disobedience, afterwards revealed it to his sovereign, when he was lamenting that he had no heir. Ardisheer was overjoyed, but was desirous of trying whether he could recognise his own offspring among others of a similar age. A number of youths, among whom was the young prince, were commanded to play a match at balls before the king. In the course of the play, the ball was struck close to the throne: all the boys stood aloof, except one, (the young Shahpoor,) who went forward with confidence, and picked it up. The monarch looked anxiously at his minister; who, overjoyed at an incident displaying such superior courage, bade him embrace his son. . . . Shahpoor appears to have been alike remarkable for wisdom, valour, and military conduct. Some of his observations have been preserved, which shew great knowledge of the human mind: ‘Words,’ he used to say, ‘may be more vivifying than the showers of spring, and sharper than the sword of destruction. The point of a lance may be withdrawn from the body, but a cruel word can never be extracted from the heart it has once wounded.’ . . . Baharam advanced into Persia with a large army of Arabs; but to save the blood of his countrymen, he proposed, that the crown should be placed between two furious lions, and should belong to the prince who had the courage to attack such guards. This was agreed to; and Khoosroo, the prince whom the nobles had elevated to the throne, was invited to the achievement; but the situation in which he saw the crown placed, deprived it of all its attractions in his eyes, and he declined the attempt. Baharam flew at the lions; and, though almost unarmed, soon slew both, and seized the crown, amid the shouts of his subjects. . . . Ismail Samanee's army, after he had taken Herat, was in the most extreme distress for want of money. Ismail had given his word not to levy a contribution on that city; but his soldiers clamorously demanded that he should consider their merits and wants before a faith that had been too hastily pledged. Ismail, however, was firm; as the army became every hour more distressed and discontented, he ordered them to march away, lest the temptation to violate his word, which he had ever held sacred, should be too great. He had gone, we are told by Persian historians, but a short distance, when a ruby necklace of one of his ladies was carried away by a vulture, being from its redness mistaken for meat. The bird was watched, and seen to deposit the jewel in a dry well, which was immediately searched. The necklace was recovered; and several boxes of treasure were found lying near it, which proved to be part of the wealth of Amer, stolen by his servant, Sam, from his palace at Seistan. The monarch rejoiced at this boon of fortune. He paid his army, and bade them learn from what had happened, that God would never desert the

man who withstood temptation, and preserved his faith inviolate.

An event occurred after a victory, alike characteristic of the times, and of the hero by whom it was gained. As Shah Abbas sat on the field of battle, carousing with his chief officers and some of the principal captives, a man of uncommon stature and soldier-like appearance was led past by a youth, who had just made him prisoner. The king demanded who he was. 'I belong to the Kurd family of Mookree,' said the captive. The king happened to have an officer of the house of Mookree in his service, of the name of Roostum Beg, who he knew had a blood feud with the family of the prisoner. 'Deliver that captive to Roostum Beg,' said the king; but that chief refused to receive him. 'I hope your majesty will pardon me,' he said; 'my honour, it is true, calls for his blood, but I have made a vow never to take advantage of an enemy who is bound, and in distress.' This noble and generous speech seemed to reflect upon the king, who, in his irritation, called to the captain of the guards to strike off the head of the prisoner. The gigantic Kurd, the moment he heard this command, broke the cords with which he was fettered, drew his dagger, and darted upon Abbas. A struggle ensued; and, in the general hurry of all to aid their sovereign, every light was extinguished, and no one dared to strike in the dark, lest he should pierce the monarch instead of his enemy. After a moment of inexpressible horror, all were relieved by hearing the king twice exclaim, 'I have seized his hand! I have seized his hand!' Order was restored, and lights brought. The brave captive was slain by a hundred swords; and Abbas, who had wasted the dagger from his hand, resented himself in the assembly, and continued (according to his historian) 'to drink goblets of pure wine, and to receive the heads of his enemies, till twelve o'clock at night.'

Abbas being one day riding with the celebrated Meer Mahomed Bauker Dámád on his right hand, and the equally famed Shaikh Báháudeen Amílee on his left, desired to discover if there lurked any secret envy or jealousy in the breasts of these two learned priests. Turning to Meer Mahomed Bauker, whose horse was prancing and capering, he observed, 'What a dull brute Shaikh Báháudeen is riding! he cannot make the animal keep pace with us.' 'The wonder is, how the horse moves at all,' said the Moollah, 'when we consider what a load of learning and knowledge he has upon his back.' Abbas, some time after, turned round to Shaikh Báháudeen, and said to him, 'Did you ever see such a prancing animal as that which Meer Mahomed Bauker rides? Surely that is not the style for a horse who carries a grave Moollah.' 'Your majesty will, I am assured,' said the Shaikh, 'forgive the horse, when you reflect on the just right he has to be proud of his rider.' The monarch bent his head forward on his saddle, and returned thanks to the Almighty for the singular blessing he had bestowed on his reign, of two wise and pious men, living at a court, and yet untainted by envy and hatred.

Abbas was led to believe that Suffee Meerza, his eldest son, a youth as remarkable for valour as generosity, had formed a design against his life, in consequence of his having put to death the nobleman who was the friend and favourite of that prince. He forgot that he was a father. He first applied to Káráchee Khan, the brave general who had defeated the Turks at Shiblee, to become the executioner of Suffee. The veteran leader threw himself on the ground, and

entreated his sovereign to deprive him of life rather than render his existence hateful, by compelling him to become the murderer of a gallant prince. Abbas did not urge him further; but he soon found a willing instrument in Beh-bood Khan. That noble, on the pretext of revenging a private injury, stabbed the prince as he was riding to the court, and took refuge in the stable of the king, who, pretending to respect a usage which renders that asylum sacred, refrained from the execution of the assassin. Such an act would, he said, bring suspicion in an affair that required deliberation; and he should therefore defer all proceedings till the infant son of Suffee Meerza was of age, and able to demand vengeance for the blood of his father. But even this thin veil was soon cast aside, and Beh-bood Khan was not only permitted to quit his asylum, but promoted to high stations. It is, however, consolatory to know, that this wretch ultimately met with a fate suited to his crime. Abbas, who, from the moment this rash act was committed, became a prey to remorse, had taken an opportunity of putting to death every one of those courtiers who had poisoned his mind against a son whom he is said to have sincerely mourned; but for Beh-bood Khan he reserved a more inhuman punishment: he commanded that obsequious lord to bring him the head of his own son. The devoted slave obeyed. As he presented the head of the youth, Abbas demanded with a smile of bitter scorn, how he felt? 'I am miserable,' was the reply. 'You should be happy, Beh-bood,' said Abbas, 'for you are ambitious, and in your feelings you are at this moment the equal of your sovereign.' Soon after the death of Suffee Meerza, the two remaining sons of Abbas were both deprived of sight by the cruel suspicions of their unnatural parent. The fate of one of these princes (if we can credit the testimony of a contemporary English writer) was attended with circumstances of the most tragical nature. This youth, whose name was Khodáh-bundáh, was as much distinguished for his courage and talents as his elder brother; but he was more cautious to avoid that attention which he feared would rouse the jealousy of his father; and he not only kept flatterers at a distance, but hated to hear the just praises which his actions obtained him. This conduct only added to that fame which constituted his danger. The first act by which Abbas shewed his suspicion, was ordering the tutor and attached friend of his son to be put to death. Conscious that the only crime of this officer was too great a regard for his master, the prince hastened to court, and in giving vent to his honest indignation, lost all consideration for his own safety. We are told that he was provoked to madness, and in the presence of his father and sovereign drew his sword. The fatal signal for his death was given; but Abbas relented so far as only to deprive him of sight. Shut out from the light of day, the prince became gloomy and desperate; nothing could give him pleasure; and his life passed in venting curses and brooding over plans of vengeance against the author of his being and of his misery. He had two children; the eldest, Fatimah, a lovely girl, was a great favourite of her grandfather, over whose mind she had acquired an astonishing influence. Abbas appeared miserable when little Fatimah was not near him, and her voice alone could soothe him when ruffled by those violent passions to which he every day became more subject. The prince learnt with savage delight how essential his daughter had become to the happiness of his

father; and seizing her as she one day came to fondle upon his bosom, with all the fury of a maniac, he in an instant deprived her of life. Her astonished mother shrieked, and told him it was his darling daughter that he was destroying. Instead of attending to her, his next effort was to seize his infant son, that he might vent his fury upon him. The child was borne from him by the distracted princess, who sent immediately to inform Abbas of what had occurred. The rage and despair into which the sovereign was thrown, gave a momentary joy to his son; gladdened with his terrible vengeance, he concluded the scene by swallowing a dose of poison, which in a moment terminated his miserable life."

We purpose inserting another batch of these interesting, and, like the last, frequently painful, anecdotes, in our next.

Fifty Lyrical Ballads. By Thomas Haynes Bayly. Bath, 1829.

THERE are three fairy spells that give the heart's immortality to a song,—a sweet air to its words, a sweet voice to breathe them, and the chance of touching one of those electric associations which haunt every memory. All of these have lent their enchantment to the songs now before us; their music is familiar to every ear, and their poetry to every lip:—simple, touching, catching a thought rather than dwelling on it, making their appeal to the tender and mournful feelings which all share more or less,—many of these ballads are the very perfection of their kind. The "Beacon-light," the "Bridesmaid," "Oh no! we never speak of her," "She never blamed him—never," are as sweet as the music to which they give a language. The only fault of the collection is its being already popular in another shape. We scarcely know what to select in the way of novelty, for quotation; but even if the following two songs are not new to our readers, they will plead their own excuse.

"Oh! am I not a lover still,
In heart and soul the same
As when I sought thy bower first,
And learnt to breathe thy name?
Oh! look I not as proud of thee?
Oh! speak I not as kind?
And when I leave thee, do I not
Leave joy itself behind?
The love I offered long ago
Is but matured by time;
As tendrils round their chosen bough
Cling closer as they climb:
Then am I not a lover still,
In heart and soul the same
As when I sought thy bower first,
And learnt to breathe thy name?"

"Oh! leave me to my sorrow,
For my heart is oppress'd to-day:
Oh! leave me,—and to-morrow
Dark shadows may pass away:
There's a time when all that grieves us
Is felt with a deeper gloom;
There's a time when Hope deceives us,
And we dream of bright days to come.

In winter, from the mountain
The stream in a torrent flows;
In summer, the same fountain
Is calm as a child's repose:
Thus, in grief, the first pangs wound us,
And tears of despair gush on;
Time brings forth new flowers around us,
And the tide of our grief is gone!

Then heed not my pensive hours,
Nor bid me be cheerful now;
Can sunshine raise the flowers
That droop on a blighted bough?
The lake in the tempest wears not
The brightness it's slumber wore;
The heart of the mourner cares not
For joys that were dear before.

And the following verse from "Oh no! we never speak of her," as it is generally omitted in the copies of the song:

"For ah! there are so many things
Recall the past to me,
The breeze upon the sunny hill,
The billows on the sea,
The rosy tints that deck the sky
Before the sun is set,—
Ay, ev'ry leaf I look upon
Forbids me to forget."

We must say we like the comic songs the least: we doubt not they have had considerable success in society; but they want good singing, good humour, bright lamps and bright eyes, supper and champagne: they are not for quiet criticism. This volume is intended for private circulation; and we cannot but say that Mr. Bayly's friends are greatly indebted to him.

Geschichte des Kaiserthums von Trebisond.
History of the Empire of Trebisond. By J. P. Fallmerayer, Historical Professor at the Lyceum of Landshut. 4to. pp. 354. Munich, 1827.

TREBISOND, on the Asiatic coast of the Black Sea, in the ancient Colchis, was governed in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries by a fugitive branch of the imperial family of Comnenus of Constantinople. The history of these emperors was but little known; and M. Fallmerayer, therefore, in elucidating their reign, has cultivated a field which had actually been deserted by historians. He found at Venice an unpublished Greek chronicle of this empire, as well as a manuscript work on Trebisond, by Bessarion, who was a native of that country. He also acknowledges in his preface his obligations to Messrs. Sacy and Hase, who communicated to him extracts from Arabic and Greek manuscripts in the library of Paris. After several chapters on the ancient history of Trebisond, M. Fallmerayer describes in an interesting manner, and with many details, the revolution which, in the year 1185, broke out at Constantinople, and compelled a branch of the dynasty of Comnenus to fly to the Black Sea, and to seek an asylum in Colchis. In the period which immediately preceded this revolution, the various factions had deluged the palace with blood, and filled the empire with disturbances. Andronicus, succeeding to a strangled empress, and having in his turn strangled his nephew Alexis, a youth of fifteen, whom he ought to have maintained in the government, took a mad and odious resolution which was very justly the cause of his fall. To rid himself of the nobles of the empire, whom he suspected, he condemned them to death in a body, under pretence of high treason. One of them, Isaac Angelus, at the moment of his being arrested in order that he might share the fate of the others, slew the emperor's confidant who had been sent to secure him, and appealed to the people for aid. The prisons in which the nobles were confined were burst open, and the revolt became general. Andronicus, having attempted in vain to negotiate with the rebels, endeavoured to escape by sea; but the vessel in which he embarked was driven into port by a tempest, and the outlawed tyrant was seized and torn to pieces. It will scarcely be believed that this Andronicus, who in other respects was about as good as most of his predecessors, is the hero, *par excellence*, of the new historian of Trebisond. He calls him "a great man, whose sublime qualities have not been hitherto appreciated." On this part of his subject, M. Fallmerayer says such strange things, that the reader is tempted to fancy him utterly deficient in judgment, and even in common sense; and it is necessary to go through the whole work to feel satisfied that he is a learned and

able man, misled by an extraordinary prejudice, solely in this history of Andronicus. He reasons at great length, with a view to impress his own conviction upon his readers; and pretends that the emperor was actuated by a great idea!! After all the important measures which he had adopted for the welfare of the empire, there was reason to fear that on his decease every thing would again fall into confusion, by the neglect of the nobles, who delighted in disturbances. "To avert this evil," says the author, "there was only one course; a course from which little minds shrink, but which the most celebrated founders of public felicity among barbarous or degenerate nations have recognised as the sole efficacious plan; namely, the amputation of the gangrenous limbs of the social body, or the massacre of the nobles. Andronicus resolved to establish this sad guarantee for the future happiness of his subjects, by destroying the greater part of the distinguished families of Byzantium." M. Fallmerayer is not aware that he is advocating a frightful theory, and a very convenient one for all tyrants. He is probably young, and has been deluded by the good qualities of this despot, who was anxious to murder for the sake of peace! Good qualities he certainly possessed. He encouraged agriculture and the useful arts; he put an end to the quarrels of the monks on points of doctrine; he maintained rigorous justice; he abolished the venality of public officers, as well as the pretended right to seize shipwrecked goods: but he was not on those accounts "a redeeming genius, a father of his people," as M. Fallmerayer terms him; since he could re-establish tranquillity only by proscriptions *en masse*, and by rivers of blood.—The branch of the Comneni who took refuge in Asia when Isaac Angelus was proclaimed Emperor of Constantinople, and who founded a throne at Trebisond, were not much wiser than the European dynasty. Their empire, which was considerably reduced by the Turkomans and the Mongols, and which perhaps reckoned two millions of souls, and could bring into the field 25,000 troops, was governed with the same weakness, and embarrassed with the same intrigues, as that of Byzantium. M. Fallmerayer considers the principal cause of this to have been the jealousy existing between the rich native families who before the arrival of the Comneni possessed the finest parts of the territory, and the Greek families of the court, who had accompanied or followed the Comneni from Constantinople, and who were the descendants of the soldiers of the palace, or the guard of the Greek emperors. These were distinguished by the appellation of *scholaria*. The scholarian faction made and unmade emperors. The nobles persecuted one another, besieged one another in their strong castles, and ravaged the lands of their enemies, precisely as was done in Europe during the existence of the feudal system. The people were as destitute of courage and energy as the Greeks of the Lower Empire. The Turkomans who infested the neighbouring countries would have subdued the empire of Trebisond with ease, had it not been protected by nature. To penetrate into it, it was necessary to pass narrow defiles, to attack hill-forts, to pierce through forests, &c. The defence of a territory so fortified is easy; and the Turkoman emirs were repeatedly repulsed: but nevertheless they laid waste the unhappy empire. Alexis the Third won the barbarians by marriages. He gave his sister, Maria Comnenus, to Koutloubey, the chief of the white horde; and

Theodora, his second sister, to Hadchymir, the chief of Chalylbia. He sacrificed his daughter Eudoxia, by marrying her to one of the emirs of the Turkomans. Tahartan, the grand emir of Arsinga, received from him the hand of another princess. These ladies were all beautiful. Eudoxia, whom we have just mentioned, became a widow, and was still so beautiful, that the old Emperor of Constantinople, John Paleologus, after having demanded her for his son, was so enchanted with her when she arrived in his capital, that he took her for himself. In the West, the marriages of Christian princesses with emirs would have been considered as scandalous; but in the East they were by no means so regarded; and it was thought lucky to purchase peace with the barbarians on such terms. On the approach of the Turks in 1440, the emperor, Calo-John, hastened to give Hassan, the Turkoman Sultan of Mesopotamia, his daughter Catharine, celebrated in the East for her beauty; in order that he might have in his son-in-law a protector against the Turks: but twenty years afterwards the Turkish sultan put an end to the poor empire of the Comneni. There were many monasteries and monks in the country of Trebisond; but the army and the fleet were in a sad condition. The inhabitants were capable of disputing about points of faith; superstitions of all kinds were believed; astrologers were consulted; legends were studied; but they were incapable of defending their country; they knew not either how to govern or how to obey. At the end of his history M. Fallmerayer has inserted a number of particulars with regard to the political, ecclesiastical, and literary condition of the empire of Trebisond. His commercial details are incomplete. There are in the annals of Venice and Genoa mercantile records, which appear to have escaped his notice. In other respects his work is carefully executed; and he has the merit of being the first historian of an empire almost entirely forgotten. The Royal Society of Copenhagen has honoured him with its approbation.—(*From the Revue Encyclopédique.*)

Clapperton's Second Expedition; Lander's Journal.

IN our review of this interesting volume we have only got so far as to shew that Lander, with an intelligence above his condition, and a zeal and intrepidity worthy of any condition, was cruelly balked in a resolute endeavour to make his way from Socotroo by the much-sought-for Niger—supposing that river to be the Quorra, and ultimately to fall into the sea by Funda and Benin, under the name of the Benin or Formosa River. We confess that the map teaches us to doubt this; for Daniora, whence Lander was carried back to Zegzeg, is (there) on the same degree of latitude with Funda; so that, supposing this theory to be true, he must have travelled nearly due south for seventeen days from Kano to a point from which he must have made a right angle and travelled due west for a fortnight to reach his destination (Funda). But as yet the mountains and rivers in this quarter seem to defy guess-work; and it will be more profitable to turn, and return to Zegzeg with Lander,—a man every way worthy of inheriting the mantle which fell upon him from his gallant and enterprising master.

Our countryman's guides were neither of the most amiable, nor, as it appears, of the most courageous character: he was so much cha-

grinned, that he tells us he "cared not much whether he lived or died;" but, after all, perhaps, if he had gone a day or two farther into the adjacent country of his friend the King of Jacoba, he might have fared worse, and been made a Lander or stew of. As it was, he was obliged to retrace his steps northward as well as his ill-health permitted. In four days he was again at Cuttup (an ominous name), and left it by another route; and in two days more at Cokalo, a poor village, where, he says, "the chief had made a fetish; and, having roasted a dog, stewed a large snake in oil and water, and boiled a good deal of corn, invited his people to a feast, of which they partook freely. A small bowl of boiled corn, enriched with a portion of the reptile, and the liquid in which it had been dressed, was sent me from the chief's table. Supposing it to be fish on the boiled corn, I ate a mouthful or two; but there being a peculiar and not disagreeable flavour with it, I cursorily asked a person who stood by my side, what kind of fish I was eating; but on his telling me it was part of the snake, I could eat no more. Pascoe, however, was not quite so fastidious, and consumed the remainder with great relish, declaring that, in his opinion, it was much superior to dried ling." [We can well suppose it; for dried ling is an abomination anywhere; and in Africa must be no dainty of the Ude kind.]

Next day, June 28, the rapid and deep Coodonia river stopped the traveller's progress, and he refused to proceed. The messengers, his police-officers as it were, thereupon left him in dudgeon: and he says—"They abused me in the most insolent terms, and threatened to go immediately and inform their king of my refusal to proceed. I desired them to give my best respects to his Zegzeg majesty, and told them they were at liberty to go as soon as they pleased. They left me in great anger, cursing me as they went; whilst I slowly proceeded with my horses and asses to the village we had left in the morning. Whether the messengers did or did not go to Zegzeg I cannot tell; but they did not return till the 11th July following. I remained all that time in the village, very ill, with nothing to eat but boiled corn, not by any means relishing their roasted dogs. The inhabitants, who came by hundreds each day to visit me, were destitute of apparel of any kind, but, nevertheless, behaved in a modest and becoming manner. The men did not appear to have any occupation or employment whatever, and spent their time in loitering about the village. The women were generally engaged most of the day in manufacturing an oil from a small black seed and the guinea nut."

Except the usual distresses of African transition, nothing particular occurred between the 11th and the 22d July, when Lander entered the city of Kari, the capital of Zegzeg, through a beautiful country, rich and fertile, and principally "laid out in gardens"! The journal continues:

"23d.—Visited the king this morning, taking with me four yards of blue, and the same quantity of scarlet damask; four yards of blue and scarlet silk, a gilt chain, six prints, among which is one of his majesty, and another of the duke of York, two pair of scissors, a quire of paper, a scarlet cap, six yards of white muslin, and a blank drawing-book. This present pleased him highly; and not long after my return to my lodgings, he sent me two fine bullocks. The chief subsequently told me that the reason for his ordering me to be brought back to Zegzeg was on account of the war between Sultan Belle and the King of Funda,

who would murder me as soon as he had me in his power, for having taken presents to his powerful enemy: it was therefore doing me a great act of favour. Abbel Crème, my host, thought it necessary for me to give something to the king's eldest son: I accordingly presented him, shortly afterwards, with two yards of blue and scarlet damask, an unwritten journal-book, half a canister of powder, a quire of paper, and a gilt chain. The prince is a remarkably fine and handsome young man, about twenty-two years of age, and was particularly kind to me. As an especial mark of favour, he took me into his inner apartments to see his wives, fifty in number, who, on my entrance, were all sitting in the shade outside their huts, and industriously occupied in preparing cotton, making thread, and weaving it into cloth. The prince said, 'I have brought the Christian to see you.' They no sooner looked up than they all instantly dropped their work, and ran, or rather flew, into their cockies, and I saw no more of them. Four of these ladies reside together in one coozie. In the course of the day the prince offered me a young female slave, named Aboudah, for a wife! I accepted of her with gratitude, as I knew she would be serviceable to me on my journey, and I should also have the satisfaction of giving her her freedom on arriving at the sea-coast."

Next day he was allowed to depart for the coast, by the more beaten way of Badagry:—but why should we trouble our readers with the names of kingdoms, such as Funda, Fellatah, Bowchee, Houssa, Guarie, Tappa, Yarida, Jaboo, Kotonkara, &c. &c., when it is more than probable, that the next European who ventures thither, will either find or give new names to nearly them all? At Guarie, on the 29th and 30th, the journal is curious, as referring to the descent of various rivers towards the Bight of Benin; but there is nothing circumstantial enough to be relied upon as a certain guide. At the town of Beari, August 10th, the record tells: "Started at the same hour as yesterday, and halted in the town of Beari at 2 p. m. Instead of journeying in a south-west direction to Youri, took another road, and kept due south, having been informed that a party of merchants had been plundered, and many of them murdered, on the road I intended taking. The chief sent me a sheep, a Muscovy duck, a quantity of yams, and some beer made from Indian corn. Returned him one yard of scarlet and blue silk, a scarlet cap, and four prints, which much delighted him. As soon as one of the head men was aware of my approach to the king's residence, he blew a shrill and loud blast through a long brass trumpet, the noise of which brought all the principal male inhabitants to the spot, who entered the hut, and seated themselves in a circle round their sovereign and myself. The chief is a fine-looking man, apparently about fifty years of age, with a noble expression of countenance, and a commanding air. The coozie into which I was introduced is the largest I had ever seen in Africa, being not less, I should think, than eighty yards in circumference. A man stood by the side of the chief while I remained, who repeated to him what I had to say, and the answers were returned to me by the same individual: this singular custom is, I believe, peculiar to Beari, as I never observed it in any other town in Africa. The chief asked the usual questions about my king and country. The town is surrounded by a high wall and a deep ditch, and contains about four thousand inhabitants, some of whom had seen us before at Womba."

It was now, by selling white-paper books and needles, &c., when required, that Lander raised funds for the expenses of his journey; and near Boussa (13th Aug.), he relates:

"A man from the town, in a state of intoxication, came to my tent this evening, with a calabash of bum, and insisted, in an insolent tone, that I should come out and drink with him. Being busily engaged in packing up the articles that had been put out to dry, I did not choose to oblige him so far. When he found I had no inclination to leave the tent, he said he was determined to come in. Wishing to intimidate the fellow, I took a loaded pistol, and went to him, threatening to shoot him unless he immediately left the place; but this, instead of having the desired effect, only exasperated him the more; and flourishing a long spear he had with him over his head, as quick as lightning he made a desperate thrust at me. Slipping a little on one side, I caught the weapon in my hands, within an inch of my breast, which saved my life. I was highly incensed at this violent act, and told the people who stood by, and were spectators of the whole affair, that if they did not that moment take him from the tent, I would shoot him in earnest: half a dozen of them accordingly dragged him away. Next morning the fellow returned, and throwing himself at my feet, begged I would not inform Sultan Magie of his conduct: for if it came to his ears he would lose his head. I forgave him, on condition that he should never get tipsy again"—(which condition, if he, like Europeans addicted to drunkenness, forgets to fulfil, there is at least this much in his favour,—it is not very likely that he will again annoy any white person with his vagaries). Lander soon after cut into the route by which the party had ascended from the coast to Soccatoo: the following, however, seem to us to be desirable quotations to illustrate African manners.

At Wowow (August 29).—"The king sent me a goat, cut up into small pieces, and a large bowl of tuah, to make a *sadacco* for my poor master:—a ceremony common in many places in the interior, on the decease of any person of consequence. The pieces of goat and the bowl of tuah are sent to the mallam, or priest, who repeats a short prayer over them: it is, however, necessary, before this can be performed, to place a gold or silver coin, or at least an article made of either of those metals, on the top of the bowl. Having no coin I could part with, I put a silver pencil-case in its stead, which was never returned me. After the prayer has been pronounced over the tuah and goat's flesh, they are sent back to the person to whom they belong, and any who is disposed comes and eats; each person, before tasting, repeating this pious ejaculation:—'God send him safe to heaven!' The goat's flesh and tuah sent to me were soon consumed.—30th. Having finished cleaning the muskets and pistols, asked the chief permission to leave Wowow. The old man, smiling, told me not half my business was done; he wanted six charms, which I alone could write. These charms were to be worn on his person, and to possess the following virtues: 1st charm. If his enemies thought of making war on him, it would cause them to forget to put it in practice. 2d. If they should be on their way to his city, for the purpose of warring, it would turn them back. 3d. If they should discharge their arrows at his people, when close to the city walls, it would cause them to rebound in their own faces, and wound them. 4th. It was the province of this charm to prevent his guns

from bursting. 5th, was to preserve the person who might hold the gun from receiving any injury, should it unfortunately explode. The 6th and last charm was to make him the happiest and most successful of men.—31st. Carried the charms to the king, on which I had written scraps of old English ballads, which made him in the best humour in the world.—September 1st. The king still wished to detain me longer, and insisted on my selling or giving him my gun and pistols, the only arms I had left. I endeavoured to soften him by every means in my power; but finding him firm in his determination of having the gun, and at least one of the pistols, and knowing resistance would be ridiculous, I sent them to him, leaving it entirely to his generosity to give what he thought proper. The liberal-minded chief shortly afterwards returned 4,000 cowries (worth little more than a dollar) as a sufficient remuneration for the gun and pistol, but made me a present the next day of a beautiful little mare.—3d. Early in the morning the old chief desired to see me before I left, and obtained from me a promise to return to him after having visited my own country. He shewed me various patterns of silk for a robe I was to bring from England for him; and said, as I was going out of the apartment, 'Your countrymen may come here and build a town, and trade up and down the Niger: we know now that they are good men, but we did not think so when the white men who were drowned at Boussa were in the country.' He kept me with him till nine o'clock in the morning, when, on going to my hut, I found a party of merchants waiting for me, whom the kind old chief had detained, on purpose that they might accompany me to Khiama (which had been concealed from me entirely), the roads to that city being infested with bands of robbers. Crossed the river Auli at twelve at noon. The current being very rapid, we had extreme difficulty in getting over; but no accident occurred, and we fixed our tent on the south bank of the river. In the evening the mallam, or priest of the merchants, came to my tent, and gave me the following account of Mungo Park and his unfortunate companions: 'You are not, Christian, the first white man I have seen. I knew three of your countrymen very well. They arrived at Youri at the fest of the Rhamadan (April). I went with two of them three times to the sultan. The person that appeared to be the head of the party made the sultan a valuable present on one of his visits, which consisted of a handsome gun, a cutlass, a large piece of scarlet cloth, a great quantity of beads, several knives, and a looking-glass. He was a very tall and powerful man, with long arms and large hands, on which he wore leather gloves reaching above the elbows. Wore a white straw hat, long coat, full white trowsers, and red leather boots. Had black hair and eyes, with a bushy beard and mustaches of the same colour. The Sultan of Youri advised your countrymen to proceed the remainder of the way on land, as the passage by water was rendered dangerous by numerous sunken rocks in the Niger, and a cruel race of people inhabiting the towns on its banks. They refused, however, to accede to this, observing, that they were bound to proceed down the Niger to the salt water.' The old mallam further observed, that 'as soon as the Sultan of Youri heard of their death, he was much affected; but it was out of his power to punish the people who had driven them into the water. A pestilence reaching Boussa at the time, swept off the

king and most of the inhabitants, particularly those who were concerned in the transaction. The remainder, fancying it was a judgment of the white man's God, placed every thing belonging to the Christians in a hut, and set it on fire.' It is not a little remarkable that it is now a common saying all through the interior of Africa, 'Do not hurt a Christian; for if you do, you will die like the people of Boussa.' The old man left me shortly afterwards, and I thanked him for his information thus voluntarily given.

"Sept. 9th. At half-past six in the morning continued our journey, and at noon entered the city of Khiama. Went immediately to the king's residence, who, as soon as he saw me, asked how I dared to come into his town without having previously sent him a messenger to inform him of my approach. I answered I had sent one of his own men, three or four days before, to acquaint him of it. 'That is of no consequence,' he continued; 'you should have sent another this morning. Get on horseback directly, and return an hour and a half's journey the way you came: on arriving there, send me a messenger, and I will order a sufficient escort to conduct you into the city in a manner deserving your rank and respectability.' I was in the act of obeying this odd mandate, when he bawled after me: 'I forgive you this time, Christian; but never be so remiss again.' The chief is an eccentric but friendly kind of man, and regretted very much my father's death, which had been told him some days before by a merchant. He had heard the Fellatas had behaved very roughly to us, and had robbed us; but asked what business we had at Soccatoo? I told him we were at Kano, on our road to Bornou, when Sultan Bello sent for us, and we were obliged in consequence to visit him. He offered to send me safely to Bornou, and said he was tributary to the sheik. I replied, that Bello had taken the presents intended for him, and that I had none left worthy so great a prince, therefore could not accept his kind offer. My present to the chief consisted of a silk sword-sash, three yards of scarlet and blue damask, the same quantity of blue silk, a red cap, two pairs of scissors, and a hundred needles. I likewise gave him my old tent, which was full of holes, and quite useless. Remained at Khiama five days, during which time the queen's treatment was kind and generous, supplying us every day with excellent provisions in great abundance. The day before my departure the king gave me a strong pony; and observed that, 'if my king wished, at any future period, to send any one to Bornou, he would conduct him there by a safe route, without the necessity of going through the Fellata country.' The king of Khiama is, without exception, the finest and handsomest man we had seen in Africa (far superior to Bello); and, with the exception of the king of Yariba, was most respectably dressed.

"16th. Arrived at Mossa, a town situated on the banks of a river of the same name, which divides Yariba from Borgoo. The river was overflown, and the current strong and rapid; in consequence of which the people of the town were afraid to ferry us over. No food of any kind this day. 17th. Asked the king of Khiama's messenger why he was so much afraid of crossing the water, observing that I had myself swam across many larger and more rapid rivers; and among others mentioned the Niger. The man, in great trepidation, begged me, as I valued my life, not to mention the names of rivers in the hearing of the Mossa, who was a female

river, and had many rivals in the affections of the Niger, who was her husband. She had a capricious, jealous, and cruel disposition; and if I ventured to place myself in her power, she would certainly swallow me up, as I had spoken slightly of her. She was continually quarrelling with her husband, thinking he was too familiar with other rivers; and where they met, they made the 'devil's own noise' with their disputes. I roared with laughter, when the man had done speaking, at the loves of the Niger, which made him very angry, and I had much to do to pacify him. Being unable to procure provisions of any kind in the village, went to the chief, and wished to know whether he intended to starve us. The old scoundrel had a garden in which he grew a quantity of yams; but he refused to sell me any, asserting that he had none for himself. I then asked leave for Pascoe to cut grass in his garden for the horses, suspecting his yams might be hid in some part of it: this he sulkily granted. In the evening Pascoe returned with a bundle of grass, concealed in which were several yams he had had the good fortune to discover. If this had not been the case, I really believe we should all have died of hunger."

At Katunga, the capital of Yariba, "The low grounds were rendered almost impassable by reason of the rain, which fell in torrents. On our arrival I was put into the same house we occupied on our journey into the interior.—26th. The king would not let me wait on him, fearing it might wet my feet; and accordingly he visited me with five hundred of his wives (out of two thousand), and the principal inhabitants of the city. The wives welcomed my return by singing a simple and plaintive air, with much pathos and feeling: their voices were sweet and musical; and the whole had a novel and pleasing effect. Nothing could be heard but their strains; to which every one listened with the profoundest attention until the conclusion of the performance. The king expressed his sorrow for my master's death; and questioned me very minutely on the natives that induced us to go into the interior. On telling him it was to see if there was any thing worth trading for in the country, he appeared satisfied. He was richly dressed in a scarlet damask robe, and a pair of trowsers made of country cloth, scarlet ground with a blue stripe; the former ornamented with coral beads; his legs, as far as the knee, were stained red with hennah; and on his feet he wore red leather sandals. A cap made of blue damask, thickly studded with coral beads, was on his head; and silver rings hung round his neck, arms, and legs. I offered him the horse I had purchased at Kano, a fine animal, that had carried me the whole of the way from that city; and regretted my inability to make him a more valuable present; but promised, if he permitted two messengers to accompany me to the sea-coast, I would send him something else. In the evening I received a goat and a great quantity of yams from the king.—27th. The king having desired me to call on some of his head men, I waited on the master of the horse, and two others. The former gave me a goat and a bottle of honey. I remarked I was very poor, and could make him no return.—30th. I informed the king I was short of money, on which he generously sent me a duck and four thousand cowries (little more than a dollar). The eunuch, the king's head man, begged of me my remaining pistol, two dollars, and a scarlet cap, which I was necessitated to give him. He also wanted my ass to make a fetich, but this I refused to let him have. This even-

ing I sent for the ass from a neighbouring pasture, when I found the poor animal had been shot in the side with two poisoned arrows. I have no doubt but this cruel action was performed at the instigation of the disappointed eunuch. The beast became a complete skeleton, and after languishing for six days in great agony, I desired Pascoe and Jowdie to take him to a short distance, and cut his throat. When the king heard of the circumstance, he immediately ordered the carcass to be cut into quarters, and conveyed to his house. After which he ordered the meat to be dressed, and having assembled his wives and head men, they regaled themselves on it with peculiar satisfaction. Wishing to pay for so delicious a treat, the king sent me a goat and a thousand cowries for the dead ass. The people of Yariba are not very delicate in the choice of their food; they eat frogs, monkeys, dogs, cats, rats, mice, and various other kinds of vermin. A fat dog will always fetch a better price than a goat. Locusts and black ants, just as they are able to take wing, are a great luxury. Caterpillars also are held in very high estimation. The caterpillars are stewed, and ate with yams and tuah. Ants and locusts are fried in butter, and are said to be delicious. I could never make up my mind to taste any of these rich insects; Pascoe, however, is particularly fond of them, and calls them land-shrimps. It is a custom in Katunga, when the king dies, for his eldest son, first wife, and all the head men of the kingdom, to drink poison over his grave, and are afterwards buried with him. None of the king's sons ever come to the throne. After the king's death, his successor is chosen from among the wisest persons of the country; an elderly man is generally preferred. Remained at Katunga till the 21st of October, when the king gave me 4000 cowries, and some trona to sell on the road. He ordered his head messengers to accompany me, with a desire they should command the chiefs of every town through which we were to pass, to contribute, according to their means, to our support.

It must be very inconvenient to place old persons on the throne, seeing that the poisoning ceremony at their death is likely to deprive the country of all its head men. Were such the custom in England, what changes in the house of peers and in the ministry would be frequent! It might however have the effect of lessening the love of, and struggle for, high places. At Badagry the Portuguese traders tried to poison poor Lander, but he escaped. We notice the fact, as a clue to much of the jealousy and cruelty which this expedition experienced at the hands of the natives. The slave dealers at least succeeded in poisoning the minds of the Africans; and thus we have to record, independently of climate, the very fatal issue of the mission.

Burckhardt's Travels in Arabia.

MEKKA.

CONTINUING the review from our last, and the account given of the curiosities of Mekka, we must confine ourselves to a portion of what relates to the Kaaba, which stands in the middle of the great mosque Beitullah, or El Haram, remarkable only on account of the worshipped object which it encloses.

"The Kaaba stands in an oblong square, two hundred and fifty paces long, and two hundred broad, none of the sides of which run quite in a straight line, though at first sight the whole appears to be of a regular shape. This open square is enclosed on the eastern side by a colonnade: the pillars stand in a quadruple

row: they are three deep on the other sides, and united by pointed arches, every four of which support a small dome, plastered and whitened on the outside. These domes, according to Kotobeddyn, are one hundred and fifty-two in number. Along the whole colonnade, on the four sides, lamps are suspended from the arches. Some are lighted every night, and all during the nights of Ramadhan. The pillars are above twenty feet in height, and generally from one foot and a half to one foot and three quarters in diameter; but little regularity has been observed in regard to them. Some are of white marble, granite, or porphyry, but the greater number are of common stone of the Mekka mountains. El Fasy states the whole at five hundred and eighty-nine, and says they are all of marble, excepting one hundred and twenty-six; which are of common stone, and three of composition.

"Seven paved causeways lead from the colonnades towards the Kaaba, or holy house, in the centre. They are of sufficient breadth to admit four or five persons to walk abreast, and they are elevated about nine inches above the ground. Between these causeways, which are covered with fine gravel or sand, grass appears growing in several places, produced by the Zemzem water oozing out of the jars, which are placed in the ground in long rows during the day.

"The Kaaba is an oblong massive structure, eighteen paces in length, fourteen in breadth, and from thirty-five to forty feet in height. I took the bearing of one of its longest sides, and found it to be N.N.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. It is constructed of the gray Mekka stone, in large blocks of different sizes, joined together in a very rough manner, and with bad cement. It was entirely rebuilt as it now stands in A.D. 1627: the torrent, in the preceding year, had thrown down three of its sides; and preparatory to its re-erection, the fourth side was, according to Asamiy, pulled down, after the olemas, or learned divines, had been consulted on the question, whether mortals might be permitted to destroy any part of the holy edifice without incurring the charge of sacrilege and infidelity. The Kaaba stands upon a base two feet in height, which presents a sharp inclined plane; its roof being flat, it has at a distance the appearance of a perfect cube. The only door which affords entrance, and which is opened but two or three times in the year, is on the north side, and about seven feet above the ground. In entering it, therefore, wooden steps are used—of them I shall speak hereafter. In the first periods of Islam, however, when it was rebuilt in A.H. 64, by Ibn Zebeyr, chief of Mekka, the nephew of Aysha, it had two doors even with the ground floor of the mosque. The present door (which, according to Azrak, was brought hither from Constantinople in 1633,) is wholly coated with silver, and has several gilt ornaments. Upon its threshold are placed every night various small lighted wax candles, and perfuming-pans, filled with musk, aloewood, &c. At the north-east corner of the Kaaba, near the door, is the famous 'Black Stone'; it forms a part of the sharp angle of the building, at four or five feet above the ground. It is an irregular oval, about seven inches in diameter, with an undulated surface, composed of about a dozen smaller stones of different sizes and shapes, well joined together with a small quantity of cement, and perfectly smoothed: it looks as if the whole had been broken into many pieces by a violent blow, and then united again. It is very difficult to determine accurately the quality of this stone,

which has been worn to its present surface by the millions of touches and kisses it has received. It appeared to me like a lava, containing several small extraneous particles of a whitish and of a yellowish substance. Its colour is now a deep reddish brown, approaching to black: it is surrounded on all sides by a border, composed of a substance which I took to be a close cement of pitch and gravel, of a similar, but not quite the same brownish colour. This border serves to support its detached pieces; it is two or three inches in breadth, and rises a little above the surface of the stone. Both the border and the stone itself are encircled by a silver band, broader below than above and on the two sides, with a considerable swelling below, as if a part of the stone were hidden under it. The lower part of the border is studded with silver nails. In the south-east corner of the Kaaba, or, as the Arabs call it, Roken el Yemany, there is another stone, about five feet from the ground; it is one foot and a half in length, and two inches in breadth, placed upright, and of the common Mekka stone. This the people walking round the Kaaba touch only with the right hand: they do not kiss it. On the north side of the Kaaba, just by its door, and close to the wall, is a slight hollow in the ground, lined with marble, and sufficiently large to admit of three persons sitting. Here it is thought meritorious to pray: the spot is called El Madjen, and supposed to be that where Abraham and his son Ismayl kneaded the chalk and mud which they used in building the Kaaba; and near this Madjen the former is said to have placed the large stone upon which he stood while working at the masonry. On the basis of the Kaaba, just over the Madjen, is an ancient Cufic inscription; but this I was unable to decipher, and had no opportunity of copying it. I do not find it mentioned by any of the historians. On the west side of the Kaaba, about two feet below its summit, is the famous Myzab, or water-spout, through which the rain-water collected on the roof of the building is discharged, so as to fall upon the ground; it is about four feet in length, and six inches in breadth, as well as I could judge from below, with borders equal in height to its breadth. At the mouth hangs what is called the beard of the Myzab, a gilt board, over which the water falls. This spout was sent hither from Constantinople in A.H. 981, and is reported to be of pure gold. The pavement round the Kaaba, below the Myzab, was laid down in A.H. 826, and consists of various-coloured stones, forming a very handsome specimen of mosaic. There are two large slabs of fine *verde-antico* in the centre, which, according to Makrizi, were sent thither as presents from Cairo, in A.H. 241. This is the spot where, according to Mohammedan tradition, Ismayl, the son of Ibrahim, or Abraham, and his mother Hagar, are buried; and here it is meritorious for the pilgrim to recite a prayer of two rikats. On this west side is a semi-circular wall, the two extremities of which are in a line with the sides of the Kaaba, and distant from it three or four feet, leaving an opening which leads to the burying-place of Ismayl.

"The four sides of the Kaaba are covered with a black silk stuff, hanging down, and leaving the roof bare. This curtain, or veil, is called *kesoua*, and renewed annually at the time of the Hadj, being brought from Cairo, where it is manufactured at the grand seignior's expense. On it are various prayers interwoven in the same colour as the stuff, and it is, therefore, extremely difficult to read them. A little

above the middle, and running round the whole building, is a line of similar inscriptions, worked in gold thread. That part of the kesoua which covers the door is richly embroidered with silver. Openings are left for the Black Stone, and the other in the south-east corner, which thus remain uncovered. The kesoua is always of the same form and pattern.

* * * The black colour of the kesoua, covering a large cube in the midst of a vast square, gives to the Kaaba, at first sight, a very singular and imposing appearance; as it is not fastened down tightly, the slightest breeze causes it to move in slow undulations, and are hailed with prayers by the congregation assembled around the building, as a sign of the presence of its guardian angels, whose wings, by their motion, are supposed to be the cause of the waving of the covering. Seventy thousand angels have the Kaaba in their holy care, and are ordered to transport it to Paradise when the trumpet of the last judgment shall be sounded. The clothing of the Kaaba was an ancient custom of the Pagan Arabs."

The following are also remarkable particulars; and,—considering that Mekka has never been painted by a Christian or renegade or impostor hand, that we are aware of,—possessing more than common interest.

"It is only during the hours of prayer that the great mosques of these countries partake of the sanctity of prayer, or in any degree seem to be regarded as consecrated places. In El Azhar, the first mosque at Cairo, I have seen boys crying pancakes for sale, barbers shaving their customers, and many of the lower orders eating their dinners, where, during prayers, not the slightest motion, nor even whisper, diverts the attention of the congregation. Not a sound but the voice of the imam is heard during prayers in the great mosque at Mekka, which at other times is the place of meeting for men of business to converse on their affairs, and is sometimes so full of poor hadjys, or of diseased persons lying about under the colonnade, in the midst of their miserable baggage, as to have the appearance of an hospital rather than a temple. Boys play in the great square, and servants carry luggage across it, to pass by the nearest route from one part of the town to the other. In these respects the temple of Mekka resembles the other great mosques of the East. But the holy Kaaba is rendered the scene of such indecencies and criminal acts, as cannot with propriety be more particularly noticed. They are not only practised here with impunity, but, it may be said, almost publicly; and my indignation has often been excited, on witnessing abominations which called forth from other passing spectators nothing more than a laugh or a slight reprimand. In several parts of the colonnade public schools are held, where young children are taught to spell and read; they form most noisy groups, and the schoolmaster's stick is in constant action. Some learned men of Mekka deliver lectures on religious subjects every afternoon under the colonnade, but the auditors are seldom numerous. On Fridays, after prayer, some Turkish olemas explain to their countrymen assembled around them a few chapters of the Koran, after which each of the audience kisses the hand of the expositor, and drops money into his cap. I particularly admired the fluency of speech of one of these olemas, although I did not understand him, the lecture being delivered in the Turkish language. His gesticulations, and the inflexions of his voice, were most expressive; but, like an actor on the stage, he would laugh and cry in the same

minute, and adapt his features to his purpose in the most skilful manner. He was a native of Brusa, and amassed a considerable sum of money. Near the gate of the mosque called Bab-es-Salam, a few Arab sheikhs daily take their seat, with their ink-stand and paper, ready to write, for any applicant, letters, accounts, contracts, or any similar document. They also deal in written charms, like those current in the black countries, such as amulets, and love-receipts, called 'Kotob muhat o kuboul.' They are principally employed by Bedouins, and demand an exorbitant remuneration. Winding-sheets (*keffen*), and other linen washed in the waters of Zemzem, are constantly seen hanging to dry between the columns. Many hadjys purchase at Mekka the shroud in which they wish to be buried, and wash it themselves at the well of Zemzem, supposing that, if the corpse be wrapped in linen which has been wetted with this holy water, the peace of the soul after death will be more effectually secured. Some hadjys make this linen an article of traffic. Mekka generally, but the mosque in particular, abounds with flocks of wild pigeons, which are considered to be the inviolable property of the temple, and are called the Pigeons of the Beitullah. Nobody dares to kill any of them, even when they enter the private houses. In the square of the mosque several small stone basins are regularly filled with water for their use; here also Arab women expose to sale, upon small straw mats, corn and durra, which the pilgrims purchase and throw to the pigeons. I have seen some of the public women take this mode of exhibiting themselves, and of bargaining with the pilgrims, under pretence of selling them corn for the sacred pigeons."

There are also many pigeons which do not fly; but of these, under the name of pilgrims, &c., we have already extracted an account: we will leave the scene of hypocrisy, credulity, and human absurdity, with one other quotation; but cannot find space for it till our next No.

SIGHTS OF BOOKS.

A Second Judgment of Babylon the Great; or, more Men and Things in the British Capital. By the Author of "Babylon the Great." 2 vols. London, 1829. H. Colburn.

THIS is book-manufacturing, wholesale, and not book-writing. The first Babylon was the production of a shrewd, observant person, who knew nothing of the interior and finer characteristics of the immense city about which he made a three-volume work: his knowledge went not beyond the newspaper and the magazine—publications laudable in their way, but by no means lights to the real illumination of society. Yet the talent of the author enabled him to produce one of those publications which have their readers and their day, and are forgotten. Their merits entitle them to no sequel, and they ought to have none; and they would have none, unless book-making were a trade in which routine and system usurped the prerogatives of intelligence and genius. The volumes now before us are wearisome common-places about the law, and the Stock Exchange, and banking, and gaming-houses, and theatres, and Jews, and vestries, and other topics which are discussed in every journal that issues from the press. There is good sense enough in stringing these things together; but neither originality of observation, depth of thought, nor pointedness of language, to render them more engaging in this dully-laborious concoction. We cannot select one extract that could amuse or inform our readers. An author should live

twenty years in London before he ventures to describe it in any part. We do not believe this author had seen its outside half a year before he thought he could lift all its veils.

The Life and Times of William Laud, D.D., Lord Archbishop of Canterbury. By J. Parker Lawson, M.A. 2 vols. 8vo. London, 1829. Rivingtons.

THE immense quantity that has been written and published about Laud, is a sufficient proof of the vast importance of his character and deeds to English history. We have therefore been surprised to find a very brilliant critic in the Edinburgh Review endeavouring to represent him as an imbecile, pusillanimous, and feeble personage:—the man who performed so high a part, must have had superior endowments. At the same time, we are ready to allow that Laud was a zealot, if not a bigot, narrow in his principles, and harsh and cruel in his disposition. It is of the nature of religious contention and of political struggle, to harden the hearts and exasperate the feelings of all concerned in them: and looking at this period with impartiality, it must be confessed, that oppression, tyranny, and persecution, on the one hand, was encountered by hatred, barbarity, and ruthless revenge, on the other. Laud has been identified with the high church and state party, and consequently assailed by dissenters and whigs; but the church ought to be independent of such a supporter, and the state dissociated from such an ally—though Laud and Stafford were, in bad times, obliged to be sacrificed, before the altar and the throne could be overturned. The present work is one of laborious partisanship, which may be upheld by ultra principles, and assailed by the opposite spirit, as a politico-polemical publication; but it can never take its place as authentic history. We could wish to see a good volume on the literary portion of Laud's life, in which he was truly great, and respecting which, much that is new and interesting might be procured.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

January 27th, 1829.

THE ball given by *son altesse la Duchesse de Berri* has, in some degree, given a variety to conversation; and instead of being asked, "Is it not very cold?"—"What horrid weather!" one hears a detailed account of the costume worn by her royal highness, the number of quadrilles she danced, who appeared her favourite cavaliers (for princesses are allowed a plurality), the name of the gentleman who leaned over her chair at supper, the colour of his hair, the form of his moustache, how his cravat was tied, the exact measure of his waist, the words he addressed to the duchess, her reply, and a thousand anecdotes suited to fashionable gossip. The fête was most brilliant. The walls of the palace were decorated with the richest tapestry, and the corridors lined with orange trees laden with their fruit, ever-greens, roses, and even lilies, in blossom; so that January and May were united. *L'homme le plus aimable* was his Majesty Charles X.; he, however, only remained until half-past eleven: French ladies pretend that no one is *si charmant, si galant*; for that he always forgets the king, and only remembers the courtier, when he is in society. A supper of eighteen hundred covers was served at one, and lasted until five o'clock in the morning. The entertainment, I understand, cost eighty thousand francs. The duchess sent ten thousand francs to the poor on the following day.

There are at present few decided mendi-

cants to be seen in the streets of Paris; distress, nevertheless, is greater than ever, but it reigns amidst the better classes, who "to beg are ashamed." The number of *sol-disant* gentlemen who are out of employment, and who can only live by ways and means, is incalculable. It happens also that men well-dressed often stop the passer-by to ask assistance. Now it is the fashion to write and speak of the misery of humanity; yet, I believe few, if any, care to be of service to others, though all wish to get credit for benevolence—there is no poet or prose writer of the age who does not pretend to sympathy; but one would wish to see actions instead of words, as proofs of the sincerity of the speaker.

Last night an officer of the Guards was given a cold bath by some robbers, who had previously taken his watch from him; fortunately, the part of the Seine into which they threw him was close to hot baths, and he was in consequence saved.

A restaurateur has offered to feed five hundred people for two sous a-head, by means of the vapour arising from his stews, soups, and pasties: he pretends that he can by this means live eight days without eating; and that such unsubstantial diet may equally support the poorer classes.

The theatres are tolerably well attended; few, however, go for the performances, but rather as a rendezvous to see and be seen; and, to kill time, I hear that private theatricals are to be established, that tickets are to be paid for, and the money collected to be applied to charitable purposes!!!

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION EVENING MEETINGS. THE first of these laudable meetings for the present session was held yesterday sennight. Notwithstanding the severe frost and heavy snow, there could not have been fewer than five hundred members and visitors assembled and distributed throughout the numerous rooms of the Institution. During the evening the library-table was surrounded by the members and their friends, all of whom must have derived ample gratification in viewing the several interesting donations and "exhibitions" which lay on it. The former consisted of various paintings, drawings, and specimens, from India, illustrative of the mythology and the arts of that country; some arrow-heads beautifully formed of whet-stone, by the Esquimaux; Egyptian inscription on copper; fine castings in bronze by Mr. Parker; &c. &c. On the table were Flinden's engraving of the King, from Lawrence; and Sievier's bust of the late Daniel Moore, a vice-president of the Institution—the expense defrayed by subscription among the members, as a testimony of posthumous regard.

At the usual hour (half-past nine o'clock) the company adjourned to the theatre. Mr. Brande then delivered the first lecture of the season; it was on the "supply of water to the metropolis." The lecturer opened his discourse (*extempore*) with some remarks on the great importance of pure water to the inhabitants of such a metropolis as London; took a review of the different plans by which it is at present supplied, as well as of those which have been brought forward since the question became the subject of parliamentary inquiry; he then dilated on the present *status quo*, and observed, that if the metropolis could not boast of having bronze and marble fountains, like many of the cities and towns on the continent, the supply was much more abundant; and perhaps, after all that had been

said about the impurity of Thames water, it was not so prejudicial to health as might be imagined by some. He then gave the following analysis:—

Thames Water..... 10-000.		Percent.	Impurest.
Carbonate of Lime	1.33	.....	1.55
Sulphate of Lime	0.15	.....	0.12
Muriate of Soda and Muriate of Magnesia	0.20	.....	0.23
	1.68	.....	1.90
Organic Matter	0.07	.....	2.02
	1.95	.....	3.92

Speaking of the means by which London is supplied with water, Mr. Brande brought forward some curious details: it appears that the supplies are, daily, of the—

	East London.	West Middlesex.	Grand Junction.	Lambeth.	Vauxhall.	Southwark.	Estim.	Cubic Feet.	No. of Tunn.	No. of Engines.	Total Power.
New River Company.....	13,000,000	9,000,000	67,000	3 (60 + 60 + 100)	230	50	230	230,000	3	60	180
East London.....	6,000,000	300,000	42,000	4 (10 + 40 + 70 + 90)	50	10	50	500,000	4	10	40
West Middlesex.....	2,250,000	300,000	15,000	3 (77 + 70 + 100)	25	5	25	250,000	3	77	230
Grand Junction.....	1,700,000	200,000	12,000	2 (60 + 70)	15	3	15	150,000	2	60	120
Lambeth.....	2,300,000	400,000	7,700	3 (100 + 100 + 70)	20	4	20	200,000	3	100	300
Vauxhall.....	1,444,000	200,000	16,000	2 (36 + 80)	115	23	115	1,100,000	2	36	72
Southwark.....	100,000	100,000	10,000	2 (45 + 80)	65	13	65	650,000	2	45	90
	720,000	115,000	7,000	2 (48 + 50)	60	13	60	600,000	2	48	96
	59,774,000	4,517,000	177,100	21	136	136	136	136,000	21	136	272

Mr. Brande exhibited the model of a filtering machine used by one of these companies, which was capable of filtering, in all weathers, 500,000 cubic feet of water per day: specimens of filtered and non-filtered water were also exhibited. The lecturer concluded amidst great applause.

SOCIETY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF ARTS, MANUFACTURES, AND COMMERCE.

THE Society had resolved, before the Christmas vacation, that seven evening meetings should be held during the present session, specially devoted to the illustration of the arts and manufactures of the country. Accordingly, the first of these meetings took place on Tuesday last, the 27th. The subject treated of, was earthenware, as far as relates to the manufacture of bricks and tiles, and the various kinds of red pottery, from the coarsest to the finest, glazed and unglazed.

The secretary, Mr. Aikin, read a paper that he had drawn up, in which he traced the history of brick- and tile-making from the construction of the tower and city of Babel to modern times. This part of the subject was illustrated by the exhibition of bricks impressed with inscriptions in the arrow-head characters, from the Birs Nemrood, the most conspicuous of the mounds that form the ruins of Babylon; by ornamented bricks from the ruins of Gour, one of the antique capitals of India; and from Nipal, the mountainous country north of the Ganges; from the Bur-

mese country; and from China. Roman bricks, from the fortified stations of that people in Britain, were also exhibited. The secretary then gave a succinct description of brick-making as practised in the vicinity of London; pointing out the characters and principal local situations of the beds of clay, and the different qualities of the bricks and tiles that they yield.

He next treated of the art of pottery; of the potter's wheel; and of the art of tempering and mixing clays according to the required quality of the ware. The degree of proficiency attained by the ancients was shewn by specimens of Etruscan or Greek vases; of Samian pottery of cups and other utensils, from Herculaneum and Pompeii; of imitations of the Etruscan ware manufactured at Naples; of lamps and other articles in terra cotta from Athens, and from Martaban in Ava; and of antique Peruvian pottery made before the discovery of America by the Europeans. He then treated in detail of the manufacture of glazed and unglazed red-ware as practised in the neighbourhood of London; and concluded the subject with an account of the process of making stone-ware, illustrated by specimens from one of the principal manufacturers of it at Lambeth.

The secretary stated, that the oriental specimens exhibited were from the museum of the East India Company, the directors of which, at the suggestion of Dr. Wilkins, the librarian, had, with characteristic liberality, sanctioned the loan of them for the evening. The Greek vases were from the collection of T. Hope, esq.; and the other antiques were furnished by T. Todd, esq., T. Widders, esq., and T. Fisher, esq. The specimens of modern pottery, shewing the various steps in the process of the fabric, were from the manufactories of Mr. Jones and of Mr. Wisker, at Lambeth.

Besides the specimens illustrative of the immediate objects of the meeting, a very interesting series was sent by Mr. Mawe, of the Strand, consisting of the black and the red marbles of Derbyshire, of fluor spar, of alabaster, of green argillite, and of fibrous gypsum, all from the same county, wrought into vases, pateras, and other ornamental articles.

MEDICO-BOTANICAL SOCIETY.

Tuesday Evening.

EARL STANHOPE, president, in the chair. Papers were read on several medicinal plants of Cuba, and on the diuretic properties of the genus *eguisetum*, or horsetail. Donations were enumerated from the Horticultural Society of Berlin, Medical and Physical Society of Calcutta, &c. Earl Stanhope moved the reading and confirming of the minutes of a former meeting; one of these minutes had reference to the "expulsion" of Mr. Brown, the distinguished botanist. Dr. Sigmond, in forcible language, objected to the motion, and suggested the propriety of referring the matter relative to Mr. Brown's expulsion to the council. Dr. Churchill followed on the same side: the eyes of the whole scientific community were directed to the Society since Mr. Brown had been expelled; many eminent members had seceded, and it had been whispered, that Sir James M'Grigor, the late president, also had retired owing to the same cause.

The noble chairman emphatically contradicted the assertion regarding Sir James M'Grigor's leaving the president's chair; he had been assured by Sir James himself, that the circumstance of his vacating the chair was neither directly nor indirectly connected with

Mr. Brown's expulsion. He would be glad if the council could retrace its steps in reference to that business; at the same time he was bound to say that he could not see how it was to be done.

The question relative to the confirming of the minutes was again put and carried *pro forma*, with an understanding that Mr. Brown's affair was to be referred to the council.

After a few remarks from Mr. Frost upon the medical qualities of some plants on the table, the meeting broke up.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA FOR FEBRUARY.

NOTWITHSTANDING the bleak influence of the wintry blast, which has been felt with such severity during the past month, as well amidst scowling clouds, as when the sun shone with clear yet cheerless ray, tending only to render the keenness of the air more apparent,—notwithstanding this dreariness, the sun is re-ascending his shining path, to marshal the seasons and conduct the year; and as he pursues his oblique course, still augmenting his power, before another revolution of the moon is completed, some of the early harbingers of spring will burst forth from their long concealment, and appear as sure pledges of the soft and vernal season.

Lunar Phases and Conjunctions.

	D.	H.	M.
● New Moon in Capricornus	3	14	31
○ First Quarter in Aries	10	7	23
○ Full Moon in Leo	18	7	15
○ Last Quarter in Ophiuchus	26	8	20

The moon will be in conjunction with

	D.	H.	M.
Venus in Sagittarius	1	16	45
Mercury in Aquarius	4	16	30
Mars in Pisces	7	22	15
Saturn in Cancer	13	16	40
Jupiter in Scorpio	26	18	7

12th day.—Mercury at his greatest elongation, in the stream issuing from the urn of Aquarius, and visible as an evening star.

Venus, the morning star, is gradually diminishing in splendour as she retreats from the earth, and approaches her superior conjunction. 15th day, 18 hrs.—in conjunction with Uranus in Capricornus, and south of the two stars in the horn of the Goat.

1st day, 10 hrs.—Mars in conjunction with Piscium, a star of the fourth magnitude in the ecliptic. 19th day—enters the constellation Aries.

Jupiter forms a right-angled triangle with the red star Antares and β Scorpii. The following will be the visible eclipses of the satellites:

	D.	H.	M.	S.
First Satellite, Immersion	13	16	27	13
Second Satellite, do.	10	17	46	41

Saturn continues in the constellation Cancer, and passes the meridian at the following times respectively:

D.	H.	M.	D.	H.	M.	D.	H.	M.
1	11	7	13	10	16	25	9	27

The double ring of Saturn constantly presents ample amusement, and affords high gratification; the contemplation of its form, position, and magnitude, supplying materials for speculation on the probable purposes for which such a zone of light was ordained to circulate round the central orb.

It is worthy of remark, that this stupendous and singular system of Saturn (its orb, ring, and satellites,) had performed 190 unostentatious revolutions of 29 years, 174 days, 1 hour, 51 min., 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ sec., through the star-gemmed zodiac; and the earth in its smaller orbit had described 5,614 circles round the sun—before this magnificent apparatus was revealed to the eye of man;—unknown to the antediluvian astronomers, though some of these had an op-

portunity of tracing the course of the planet through upwards of thirty complete revolutions;—unconceived of by those who cultivated the science in the plains of Chaldea;—equally so by the philosophers of Egypt, Greece, and Rome;—by most of the nations of antiquity* deemed dreary and uncheering in itself, and baleful and malignant in its influence on other bodies:—it was reserved for recent times to behold and investigate this beneficent display of the Creator's power and wisdom.

Till the invention of telescopes, Saturn held no particular rank in the heavens, beyond that distinction which the slowness, yet regularity of its motion, and degree of brilliancy, rendered remarkable: its singularity of appearance was first observed by Galileo, in the year 1610, who described it as consisting of three globes—one larger, with a smaller one on each side: he veiled his discovery in a Latin sentence, which he transposed, that his observation might remain secret, and yet afford him at some future time the opportunity of claiming the honour of the discovery. Huygens completed the discovery, and explained the phenomena of the ring, that, in its course round the sun, it assumed a variety of oval forms, from its being seen obliquely,—gradually contracting from a certain ellipticity to an almost imperceptible line, and again expanding till it resumed its maximum of ellipticity,—the ring being most open when the planet was in 19 deg. of Sagittarius and 19 deg. of Gemini, and appearing as a line across the disc in 19 deg. of Pisces and 19 deg. of Virgo.

So remarkable a body in the planetary train, from its dissimilarity to the others, soon excited the vigilance of the astronomers of that period, and left little to reward the research of those of the present day, beyond the task of correcting, with their exquisitely constructed instruments, its various dimensions. The following are the micrometrical observations of this planet, made at Dorpat, in 1826, by Professor Struve, with Fraunhofer's large refractor:—

External diameter of the external ring	46".215
Internal diameter of the external ring	35".395
External diameter of the internal ring	34".379
Internal diameter of the internal ring	27".46
Equatorial diameter of Saturn	19".045
Breadth of the external ring	3".410
Breadth of the chasm between the rings	0".408
Breadth of the internal ring	3".913
Distance of the ring from Saturn	4".352
Equatorial radius of Saturn	9".022
Inclination of the ring to the ecliptic	29° 5' 9"

It has been remarked, by several accurate astronomers, that the dark space between the orb of Saturn and the ring appears greater on the eastern than on the western side of the planet, and has been supposed by some to be an optical illusion. From the results, however, of several careful measurements, Professor Struve is decidedly of opinion that the orb is not in the centre of the ring. Both the rings are brighter than the orb, and the outer one brighter than the inner. The thickness of the double ring has been considered as incapable of measurement;—from observations by Schroter,

* The ancient name of Saturn was Chronos, time; so named from the slowness of its motion: it was also called Phœnon, shining or appearing, which denomination is rather singular, Saturn not being the most brilliant of the planets. This name may be accounted for, from the superstitious feelings of the ancients, who regarded this planet as of evil omen, from its leaden hue and remote situation: their custom was to propitiate the smiles of fortune by giving flattering names to those influences they deemed prejudicial. Among the Jews, this planet is supposed to be the one referred to in the sacred writings as Chîn, or "Remphan, the star of your god." Saturn is also called Remphan in the Persian language; and among the Chinese, Tu, or Tien—earth; a reference, probably, to its inferior brilliancy.

it is found to be 0".125; it is also supposed that the edge of the ring is of a spherical, or rather spheroidal form. When the ring is in the plane of the eye, its surface is found not to be exactly uniform, sometimes one area entirely disappearing, at other times both being observed to be detached from the planet: these irregularities on its surface are considered as necessary for maintaining the ring in equilibrium; for if a perfectly uniform body, it would yield to the slightest attraction, which might ultimately precipitate it on the surface of the orb.

The appearance of the double ring to the inhabitants of the globe of Saturn must be inconceivably splendid and magnificent, varying in appearance according to the situation in which it is beheld. From the regions several degrees distant from each pole, the inhabitants cannot possibly see this grand spectacle—being below their horizon. In approaching the latitude of 60 deg., it must be first seen as a bright segment of a disc, just emerging above the horizon, of the brightness of the morning twilight, only more defined;—nearer the equator, as a vast luminous arch;—and when contemplated from the middle zone of the planet, a bright band would be observed crossing the zenith, and terminating in the eastern and western points of the horizon. Hence, the glory of the celestial canopy during a Saturnian night must, to that planet, indeed, be far exceeding what we behold from our earth; particularly from those places where the ring can be surveyed in its concave and convex form, stretching across the firmament, and apparently resting on the verge of the horizon: above and beneath the arch, the same constellations which ornament our sky would be observed shining with subdued splendour;—while, at different distances and positions without the ring would be seen, gliding swiftly, the satellites of Saturn, either rising, setting, or on the meridian; others entering into the shadow of the orb, or emerging from it; each exhibiting every variety of phase—from the delicate crescent to the semi-lunar—from a gibbous to a full-orbed brightness.

Does such beauty and design beam upon a desert, and shed its radiance upon realms of solitude and silence,—to be witnessed by no intellectual eye in those vast regions, and seen only in miniature by a few individuals from this remote and comparatively minute earth? Doubtless, from such a glorious abode, the voice of gratitude and adoration continually ascends to the great Creator for such a resplendent retinue, by which its distance from the sun is so amply compensated.

But Contemplation rests her weary wings,
And stops awhile to tremble and adore.

Dejford. J. T. B.

PLATINA COINAGE.

IN our last Number we mentioned the coinage of money in Russia of the platina found in the Oural Mountains; and we are now indebted to the polite attention of M. Smirnov (secretary to Prince Lieven) for a fine specimen of a coin of that metal, dated St. Petersburg, 1828; and of the value of three roubles, or nearly ten shillings in silver. It is about the size of a sovereign, and so beautifully executed as to do great credit to the mintage and arts in Russia. On the one side is the Russian eagle, admirably emblazoned, with its honourable shields and bearings; and on the reverse, a central inscription, stating the amount of the piece, and round the border the words "2 Zol. [quasi Zolotniks] 41 parts of pure Oural Platina." The edge is

handsomely milled; and, altogether, the money is, as we have said, a curious and beautiful specimen of metallic currency.

It is a circumstance perhaps worthy of attention, and recalled to our memory by this subject, and by the recent paper of Dr. Wollaston explaining the malleability of platina, that some years ago a plan was submitted, through our means, to Lord Liverpool, for alloying the coinage of this country with that metal. The object proposed was to prevent the disappearance of our gold when the exchanges happened to be against us; for the platina being of a proportionate intrinsic value would render it a losing process to submit the guinea or sovereign, of which it formed a part, to the crucible. We know not what became of this project, but remember that we considered it to be extremely ingenious and feasible at the time. We have only to add, that the Russian *Two Zolotniks* weighs more than a sovereign, and not quite so much as a sovereign and sixpence.

FINE ARTS.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

ON Monday the British Gallery will be opened with a collection of works by British artists; and it affords us great delight to announce (from a private view of it) that it is not only equal to any former exhibition of the kind, but, in our judgment, superior to any of its predecessors. There are, it is true, few pictures in the highest walk of art; but there is also far less mediocrity or inferiority than we have hitherto seen. The rooms are rich in landscape; in smaller classic productions; in familiar life both pathetic and playful; in humorous subjects; in architectural interiors and exteriors, animated with figures; in fanciful or poetical compositions;—and, indeed, in all the pleasing varieties of pictorial creation. To this pleasing result many of our first-rate artists have contributed; and we are also happy to observe that the younger professors rising into fame, have fully confirmed the expectations built upon their preceding exertions.

To these we shall in due time pay, as usual, the tribute of separate notice: at present we will mention no names, and avoid that invidious course by bestowing a most hearty and well-deserved eulogy upon the whole.

THE COLOSSEUM.

WE proceed to redeem the pledge which we gave our readers in our 626th Number, namely, that we would take an early opportunity of detailing the architectural structure of the Colosseum, and of endeavouring by a plate to communicate some notion of the curious contrivances which were resorted to, and the serious perils which were incurred, in the production of the beautiful panorama which forms the principal ornament of the interior of that fine and magnificent building.

The Colosseum was commenced in 1824, and completed (as far as regarded the external building) in 1826; from the designs, and under the superintendence, of Mr. Decimus Burton. It is a polygon of sixteen faces, each twenty-five feet in length. Attached, on the west side, is a noble Grecian-Doric portico, of six columns, occupying three of the faces of the polygon. The order of the portico is continued round the entire building: the entablature being supported by ante, or pilasters placed at the angles.

A massive step, which, with the plinth line, forms two risers, each two feet six inches high,

and similar to those of the portico, is continued round the building; evidently with a view of adding to its simplicity and solid effect, and of forming a grand basis for the whole structure.

Upon the entablature is an attic, from which springs a dome, having three gradini, or steps, at bottom, and a moulding and parapet at the summit; behind which is a gallery, formed for the purpose of viewing the surrounding scenery. The upper portion of the dome is glazed, giving it the appearance of one vast skylight, seventy-five feet in diameter: the rest of the dome is covered with copper, and painted.

The greatest external diameter of the polygonal building is one hundred and thirty-two feet: the greatest internal diameter is one hundred and twenty-six feet. The height of the walls is, externally, sixty-four feet; internally, seventy-nine feet, and to the sky-light one hundred and twelve feet.

The example of the Parthenon appears to have been followed in the proportions of the columns and architectural members of the portico; but they are of larger dimensions than those of the Parthenon; the diameter of the columns being six feet two inches and a half, and their height thirty-five feet six inches.

The roof of the portico is seventy-five feet in extent: the flank is fifty-three feet six inches.

The portico and the walls of the Colosseum are built of brick, and stuccoed with the Portland-stone cement.

The walls are three feet thick at the bottom, and diminish to one foot ten inches above the roof-plate.

At sixty feet above the footings spring the principal ribs of the dome. They are forty-eight in number, and are formed with six thicknesses of inch-and-a-half plank; at bottom, fourteen inches deep. At top, there are only four thicknesses, all securely bolted and spiked together, and the heading joints every where alternately. They are held fast by iron shoes at bottom, secured to a strong plate, which, in the manner of a hoop, binds the whole together. There are eleven tiers of intermediate hoops, or entablatures; and the whole of this framing is filled in with strong diagonal bracing. The ribs abut at top against a strong circular curb; and a perfect equilibrium has been maintained throughout.

The metal astragals of the sky-lights are above the ribs and timbers, and form part of the false external dome, which, to add grace to the outline of the structure, is made to spring at fifteen feet higher than the principal dome: the construction of the ribs, &c. being similar, but the scantlings less. This external dome is boarded and covered with copper, from the attic as high as to the sky-light, which extends fifteen feet beyond the gallery before mentioned. The portion, therefore, of the dome which is glazed exceeds three thousand feet. In addition to these two domes there is an internal one, formed of slight-framed ribs, lathed and plastered, and constituting the ceiling, which blends with the canvass of the panoramic picture at the horizontal line; thus enabling the artist, as we mentioned in our former notice, to avail himself of its spacious superficies for the sky,—an improvement which, we understand, has in no other case been attained.

The visitors enter from the portico into a vestibule which is lighted from the roof, and is divided into three compartments. Its dimensions are seventy feet long, by fourteen wide; forty feet high in the centre compartment, and twenty feet high on the staircases at each end. The right-hand staircase is for the visitors pay-

ing the larger price; and descends to a lobby under the entrance, and thence by a corridor to the spiral staircase which leads to the lowest of the three galleries for viewing the picture. Unconnected with the intermediate gallery, there is a communication from the lowest gallery to the highest; and thence to the refreshment-rooms and the exterior of the dome. From the corridor on the ground-floor there is also a communication with a grand circular saloon, for the reception of the company, previous to, and after, the ascent; and from a lobby, connected with this room and the corridor, the visitors may enter the small circular chamber to which we adverted in our last notice, and be raised by machinery to the level of the first or lowest gallery. The staircase on the left, on entering the vestibule, leads to the second-price gallery; in the first place descending to a lobby and corridor, the ascent from which is by a spiral staircase, under those which have been already mentioned.

The central erection, in which these staircases and the ascending-room are contained, is of timber, framed in the strongest manner. The principal uprights are twelve in number; seventy-three feet high; one foot square; set upon a circular curb of brick-work; hooped round with iron; and further secured by close diagonal bracing, and by two other circular curbs; from the upper one of which rises a cone of timbers thirty-four feet high, supporting the upper refreshment-rooms, the original ball and the imitation of the cross* taken down from St. Paul's, the crow's nest in which Mr. Horner made the original drawings for the panorama, and the staircase to the exterior of the building.

Another circle of upright timbers, twenty-four in number, is constructed at seven feet outside that already described; and between the two circles the staircases wind. The fronts of the galleries are planned with pilasters and an entablature in the lower one, and piers supporting arches in the second. These produce an architectural character, and at the same time tend materially to assist the pictorial effect of the panorama, which is thus viewed through the several openings; the piers, entablature, &c. forming, as it were, so many frames, and enabling the visitor to contemplate separately and uninterruptedly any particular portion of the extensive scene before him.

Having thus given a succinct, but, we trust, a clear, account of the construction of an edifice which is allowed by every body to be at once one of the most simple and one of the most noble ornaments of which London can boast, we have only to subjoin an explanation of the plate, illustrative of the various devices invented for the purpose of facilitating the execution of the picture. It must be obvious that all scaffoldings, &c. for a large painting require, in the first place, as much steadiness as can be imparted to them; in the second place, as much security, not only real, but apparent, as can be obtained (artists being generally unused to, and incommenced by, any flights, except those of fancy); and, in the third place, the use of as few planks, poles, ropes, and other materials, as possible; their intervention preventing the progress of the general effect of the work from being adequately observed—a circumstance of the utmost importance. To the difficulties attendant

* In our former notice we were in error in stating that both the ball and the cross here placed were the ball and cross taken down a few years ago from the top of St. Paul's.

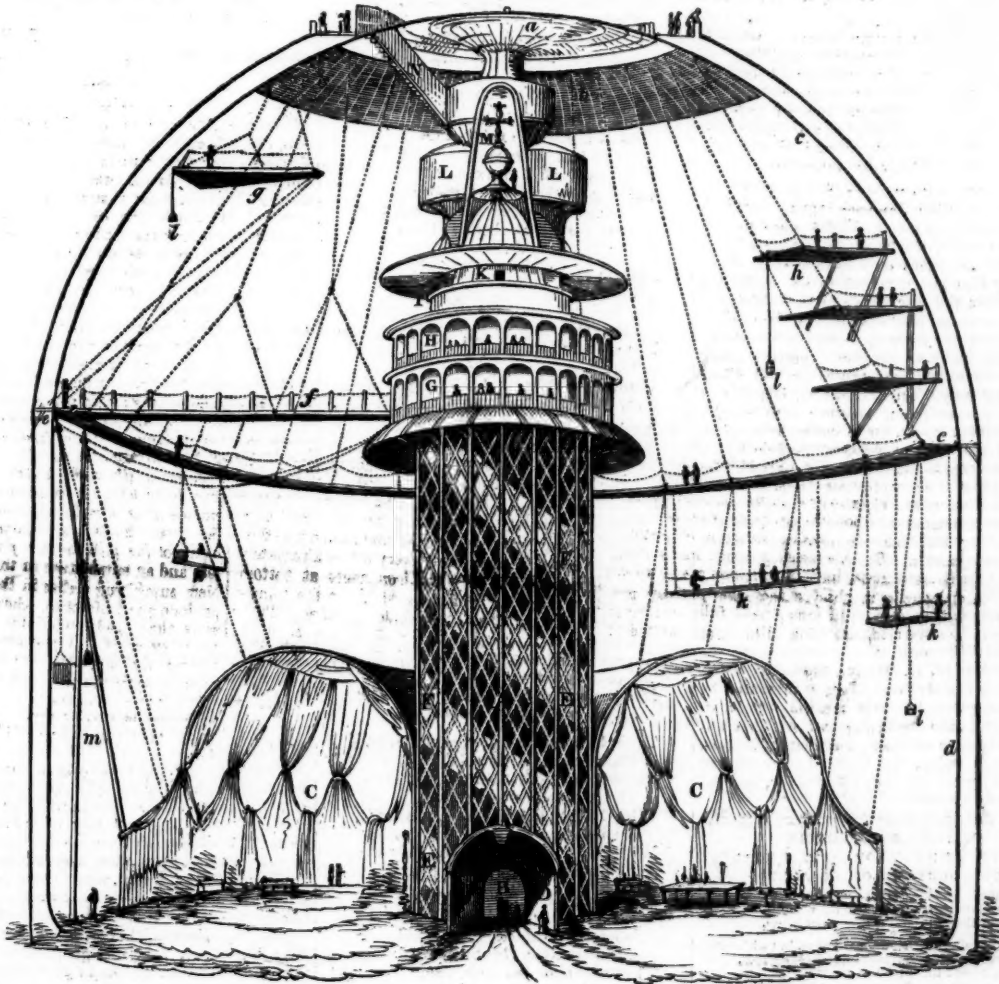
upon ordinary cases, were superadded, in the present instance, the difficulties which arose in consequence of the form of the upper part of the building; the diameter of the dome of which exceeds by thirty feet the diameter of the dome of St. Paul's.

Table of References to the Plate.

A. Column or Tower in the centre of the building, for supporting the Ascending-Room, &c.
B. Entrance to the Ascending-Room.

C. Saloon for the reception of works of art.
D. Passage leading to the Saloon, Galleries, and Ascending-Room.
E. F. Two separate Spiral Flights of Steps, leading to the Galleries, &c.
G. H. I. Galleries from which the Picture is to be viewed.
K. Refreshment-Room.
L. Rooms for Music or Balls. The effect of either is delightful.
M. The Old Ball from St. Paul's Cathedral.
N. Stairs leading to the Outside of the Building.
a. b. Sky-lights. c. Plaster Dome, on which the sky is painted. d. Canvass on which the part of the picture up to the horizon is painted. e. Gallery, suspended by

ropes, used for painting the distance, and uniting the plaster and the canvass. f. Temporary Bridge from the Gallery G to the Gallery e, from the end of which the echo of the building might be heard to the greatest advantage. g. One of Fifteen Triangular Platforms, used for painting the sky. h. Platforms fixed on the ropes of the Gallery e, used for finishing and clouding the sky. k. Different methods for getting at the lower parts of the canvass. l. Baskets for conveying colours, &c. to the artists. m. Cross or Shear; formed of two poles, from which a cradle or box is suspended, for finishing the picture after the removal of all the scaffolding and ropes.



LITERARY AND LEARNED.

OXFORD, Jan. 24.—On Thursday last the following degrees were conferred:

Doctor in Medicine.—J. Alderson, Magdalen Hall.
Masters of Arts.—W. L. Nicholls, Queen's College; Rev. I. King, Christ Church; Rev. H. B. Wilson, St. John's College.

Bachelors of Arts.—G. Phillimore, G. C. Lewis, Students, J. E. Robinson, W. H. Hitchcock, Christ Church.

ROYAL SOCIETY.

To bring up our arrears of proceedings, we refer back to 20th November, 1828, when a paper was read, entitled "An Account of some Experiments on the Torpedo," by Sir Humphrey Davy, Bart., F.R.S., &c.

The author, after noticing the peculiarities discovered by Walsh in the electricity of the torpedo, and the opinion of Cavendish that it resembles the action of an electrical battery weakly charged, adverts to the conjecture of Volta, who considered it as similar to that of the galvanic pile. Being on the coast of the Mediterranean in 1814 and 1815, the author, desirous of ascertaining the justness of Volta's comparison, passed the shocks given by living torpedos through the interrupted circuit made by silver wire through water, but could not perceive the slightest decomposition of that fluid; the same shocks made to pass through a

fine silver wire, less than one-thousandth of an inch in diameter, did not produce ignition. Volta, to whom the author communicated the result of these experiments, considers the conditions of the organs of the torpedo to be best represented by a pile of which the fluid substance was a very imperfect conductor, such as honey, and which, though it communicated weak shocks, yet did not decompose water.

The author also ascertained that the electrical shocks of the torpedo, even when powerful, produced no sensible effect on an extremely delicate magnetic electrometer. He explains these negative results, by supposing that the

motion of the electricity in the torpedinal organ is in no measurable time, and wants that continuity of current requisite for the production of magnetic effect.

January 29th, 1829. The president in the chair.—The reading of a paper on the appearances of the "Aurora Borealis in Scotland" was resumed and concluded.

Professor Antoine Laurent de Jussieu, member of the Academy of Sciences of Paris, and nephew to the celebrated Jussieu, was elected a foreign member.

Professor Nobili, author of several treatises on electricity, exhibited some specimens of metals which had been subjected to galvanic influence in a peculiar manner. A plate of steel that had been acted upon in this way, and divided into symmetrical compartments, displayed great iridescent beauty: it was presented to the Society by the professor.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

THURSDAY, 29th January, 1829. William Hamilton, esq. in the chair.—A paper, by Mr. Crofton Croker, was read, describing a great variety of specimens of Roman pottery discovered by him last autumn, in an excavation made under the war bank, in the vicinity of Caesar's camp, on Keston Common, near Bromley, in Kent (see *Literary Gazette* of the time). From the immense variety of pottery found during the excavation, exceeding 200 specimens, not only of an ornamental, but also of a culinary description, together with quantities of human bones, stone coffins, and coins, and also the walls of a Roman temple which were uncovered,—there are strong reasons for believing that the city of Noviomagus was situated in the immediate vicinity of the war bank. The entrenchments of Caesar's camp, on the neighbouring hill, may be accurately traced throughout; and a visit to these interesting remains is well worthy of the attention of the lover of antiquarian research. Mr. Croker's paper was accompanied by a set of masterly drawings; the same size, and coloured in exact imitation of the original specimens, from the pencil of Mr. W. H. Brooke, the artist, a fellow of the Society, and liberally presented by him.—A paper on ancient playing-cards, or tablets, was also read; together with an unpublished letter of Queen Elizabeth. Messrs. Robinson, Gooden, and Vigers (as announced last week), were severally balloted for, and declared duly elected.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

LINES TO THE AUTHOR AFTER READING THE SORROWS OF ROSALIE.*

One of those gifted ones that walk the earth,
Like angels in their beauty, and the while
The air is filled with music from their wings.

Love's thoughts are writ on rose-leaves, but with tears;
And those are what she taught her charmed lute,
Looking herself the loveliness she sung.

THEY tell me, lady, that thy face
Is as an angel's fair,

That tenderness is all the trace
Of earth thy features wear;
That we might hold thee seraph still,
But sighs with smiles unite,
And that thy large dark eyes will fill
With tears as well as light.

* Having the wholesome fear of the Baviad and Maviad before our eyes, we rarely admit compositions addressed to particular persons into our columns. The present exception is made, because it has delighted us to see one of the greatest female ornaments of Britain's poetic page, devoting a ray of her brilliant genius in giving a generous welcome to a new sister of the song; and because the talents of L. E. L. have shed a general interest over the subject, which divests it of all individuality, and renders it worthy of public regard.—Ed. L. G.

They tell me that thy wit when gay

Will turn to sad again—
The likeness of the lightning ray,
That melts in summer rain;
And that the magic of thy words
Is even as thy song—
The sweetness of the sea-shell chords
The night-winds bear along.

I well believe all they can say
Of fairy charm is thine—
My lips are murmuring now thy lay,
My tears on thy last line:
I've drank the music, sweet and low,
Waked by thy graceful hand;
I must speak of thee—I am now
"Beneath the enchanter's wand."

I dream thee beautiful and bright,
Amid the festal crowd,
With lip and eye of flashing light,
Thy own self disavowed.
They see the loveliness that burns,
The splendour round the shrine—
But not the poet-soul which turns
Thy nature to divine.

I dream thee in thy lonely hour,
Thy long dark hair unbound,
The braiding pearl, the wreathing flower,
Flung careless on the ground;
The crimson eager on thy cheek,
The light dark in thine eye—
While from thy parted lips there break
Sweet sounds, half song, half sigh.

A tale of feminine fond love,
The tender and the tried,
The heart's sweet faith, which looks above,
Long after hope has died.
Even as the Spring comes to the rose,
And flings its leaves apart,
So what should woman's hand uncloze?—
The page of woman's heart.

The song is sad which thou hast sung:
Is sad!—how canst thou know—
The loved, the lovely, and the young—
A single touch of woe.
Ah, yes! the fire is in thy breast,
The seal upon thy brow,
Life has no calm, no listless rest,
For such a one as thou—

Thou, blending in thy harp and heart
The passionate, the wild,
The softness of the woman's part,
The sweetness of the child;
With feelings like the fine lute-strings,
A single touch will break;
With hopes that wear an angel's wings,
And make the heaven they seek.

The stern, the selfish, and the cold,
With feelings all repress—
The many cast in one base mould,
For them life yields her best;
They plod upon one even way,
Till time, not life, is o'er;
Death cannot make them colder clay
Than what they were before.

But thou—go ask thy lute what fate
May for thy future be,
And it will tell thee tears await
The path of one like thee:
Too sensitive, like early flowers,
One unkind breath to bear,
What in this weary world of ours,
But tears can be thy share?

Yet little would I that such words
Of prophecy were sooth;
I am so used to mournful chords,
To me they sound like truth.

And if Fate have one stainless leaf,
That page to thee belong:
Sweet lady, only dream of grief,
And let the dream be song.

I pity those who sigh for thee,
I envy those who love;
For loved thy nature's formed to be,
As seraphs' are above.
I fling thee laurel offerings,
I own thy spirit's spell,
I greet the music of thy strings—
Sweet lady, fare thee well.

L. E. L.

DRAMA.

ADELPHI.

MONSIEUR MALLET is carrying all before him, and this charming little theatre fills to an overflow every night; as if the English (who, Monsieur says, "do not know ven dey are beat enough") did not know when they were amused enough. It is indeed a capital little drama, uniting much natural feeling with much of national peculiarity, bordering on burlesque. This is a difficult game to play: to laugh on one side of the face, and cry on the other, is no easy achievement. But it is here fairly and delightfully accomplished; and Mathews shews himself a master of the quickly alternating smile and tear. His personation of the old exiled noble, the Frenchman, and the father, is a fine piece of acting; and those who have thought that his extraordinary powers of imitation were his chief qualifications for the stage, had better see him in *Monsieur Mallet*. But, as we slightly noticed last week, all the parts are cast with a force that would support the first of our comedies. Mrs. Yates, touching, graceful, and charming, converts the simple character of *Adelaide*, the daughter of M. Mallet, into an exhibition of first-rate *unaffected* and pathos—she is just what the child of such a parent should be. Then comes Yates himself, the prince of "Niggers," the black Roscins of the Buck Lane of the Boston Private Theatricals: full of life and animation, his servile fears hardly restrain this sable hero of the sock and buskin:

"Let Yercules himself do what lib may,
De dog vill meow, de cat vill bark all day;"

and both his mew and his bark are excessively entertaining. Were he any where but in his own happy home, the Adelphi, we would suggest to him to take a benefit with the representation of a Nigger parody of "Shakespeare." Wilkinson, whom we formerly and unjustly omitted to mention, is greatly small in the *Postmaster* of Boston, whose reading of the directions (and of the insides) of letters is quietly ludicrous, and tells, as all quiet humour does, effectively. Benson Hill is a landlord, colonel, &c.; Buckstone, a Kentucky attorney, legislator, and dealer in log-wood; Mrs. Hughes, a back-settlement young lady, very desirous of being otherwise settled by marriage with this Kentucky sweetheart; Butler, a Boston merchant; Hemmings, the lover of Mlle. Mallet; and T. P. Cooke the genuine Uncle Ben, of German extraction, and gifted with a remarkable poetical vein:—and what more could be desired, with a smart dramatic frame-work, to make one of those pieces which delight every body? So it is at the Adelphi; and till their season ends, we will venture to predict, unless M. Mallet likes crowds, he will enjoy no repose.

On Monday, an interlude, entitled *Too late for Love*, was performed with perfect success. If we remember rightly, it is abridged, and otherwise but little altered, from *The Old*

Maid.—a farce of older times, when such beings existed. In its revival, Mrs. Edwin is much distinguished as a votary of a school of art of which we see too little on the modern stage. The compliment will be understood, if we state that her acting in this piece made us think of Mrs. Davenport, and still more of Mrs. Gibbs: it was truly comic and excellent, and was deservedly applauded throughout (including an encored song). Mathews, in a hot (Captain) Curry, threw much fun into the scene. Miss Daly, at short notice (*pro* Miss Graddon, with a bad cold), acquitted herself very cleverly; and Mr. Sinclair, who had too little employment, sang most sweetly, and in a duelling trio proved himself equal to all kinds of sharps—and flats.

At the larger theatres during the last eight days there has been a repose upon successfully established pieces; so that we have only to intimate the note of preparation for novelties next week: namely, a new opera, the words and music by Bishop; a new comedy, in three acts, by Lunn, and powerfully cast; and a farce from the mirth-making pen of Peake.

In the way of dramatic gossip, we may notice that Kean has definitively quitted Covent Garden, in consequence of the results of his late sudden illness; and that Liston met with an accident in stepping from his carriage, by which his shoulder was dislocated, but, being speedily replaced, the bad effect has not been so severe as to prevent him from continuing to perform.

We observe that the licenser, Mr. Colman, has been most officiously and vexatiously interfering with the Oratorios, which, under the able direction of Mr. Hawes, promised to begin with great taste and spirit last night. He, it seems, has forbidden the performance of Mehul's "Joseph and his Brethren," because it was not licensed—no fees paid. Mr. Hawes was thus compelled to substitute another oratorio; and has had the courage and good sense to meet this oppressive act by a public appeal. Indeed, the licenser has been far too long permitted to annoy the drama, by the puerile and absurd obstacles which he is continually imposing.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

On Saturday last, the pupils of the Royal Academy of Music, under the patronage of his Majesty, commenced a second series of operatic performances for three nights at the English Opera House, with the *Barber of Seville*. The cast of parts was the same as before, and De Bagnis directed the whole with his wonted tact and spirit.

The Melodists' Club had its first meeting on Thursday, at Freemasons' Tavern, where the attendance was numerous, and the musical entertainment delicious. His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex was announced as patron, and several noblemen as vice-presidents: we will give some account of the meeting in our next Number.

VARIETIES.

Tapestry.—In the present exhibition at Paris of porcelain, tapestry, &c., a copy, manufactured at the Gobelins, of a picture by M. Gros, of "Charles the Fifth visiting the church of St. Denis," is spoken of by the Parisian connoisseurs as a masterpiece of harmony and transparency.

Mr. Shield.—This celebrated composer, the father of English melody, died on Sunday last at a very advanced age. No man was ever

more popular in his day, and many of his delightful compositions will continue to charm generations yet to come.

The French Scientific Expedition to Egypt.—Letters have been received in Paris from different persons who form part of this expedition, to the middle of November; but we do not find that they contain accounts of any new discoveries of interest. In addition to the letters already published in this country, some of the French papers contain communications of less pretension, from other gentlemen, who appear to have been equally struck with the wonders of Egypt. It would seem, from their description of Cairo, that the gaieties and amusements of the French Palais Royal fall far short of the festivities of the Egyptian city.

Extremes of Heat and Cold.—The longest duration of cold, during the night, ever known at Berlin, was in 1823, from the 30th of December to the 10th of January, when the thermometer, during the twelve nights, was 10 degrees below zero of Réaumur; and in the year 1776, from the 25th January to the 2d February, the thermometer, for the ten nights, stood at the same point. In 1823, even during the day, the thermometer was constantly below zero of Fahrenheit. The greatest duration of heat was in 1826, from the 5th to the 10th of July, when the thermometer was, during the day, above 25 of Réaumur (upwards of 88 of Fahrenheit); and it was the same in 1802, from the 21st to the 25th of August. The greatest cold known in St. Petersburg was in the year 1772, when the thermometer was 35·7 below zero of Fahrenheit; and the greatest heat was in 1788, when the thermometer stood at 26·7 of Réaumur—91·4 of Fahrenheit. At Berne, in Switzerland, however, the extremes of heat and cold have occasionally been more intense than in St. Petersburg. In the year 1789 the thermometer stood, at Berne, at 24 below zero of Réaumur; and in the year 1807 the heat was, at one time, 29 of Réaumur, or 95·25 of Fahrenheit. At Montpellier, in the year 1823, the heat was so great, that for two or three days the thermometer marked more than 100 of Fahrenheit. In the year 1795 the extreme of cold at Paris was 18·8 below the freezing point of Réaumur, or 8·68 below the freezing point of Fahrenheit; and the extreme of heat in 1793 was 30·7 of Réaumur, or 99·6 of Fahrenheit.

Frederick Von Schlegel, the celebrated German lecturer and poet, died a few days ago at Vienna.

Freedom of Education.—Several Societies in Paris have combined to offer a prize of 1,500 francs for the best essay in favour of freedom of education. The principal topics to which they wish the competitors to direct their attention are, the right or expediency of the legislative, the executive, or any other public authority intermeddling with education; the necessity for any precautions or regulations upon the subject; the evils which such supposed necessity has hitherto occasioned; and the best means by which those evils may henceforth be avoided.

Yellow Fever.—A physician at Vienna, in Navarre, of the name of Pagès, observed there during the last year several cases of sporadic yellow fever; which is the more remarkable, as Vienna is situated amidst mountains, more than forty leagues from the sea, and as the absence of all maritime commerce excludes any idea of the importation of the malady. 'It did not shew itself to be contagious.

Chemistry.—The report of a committee of the Académie des Sciences, to whom the sub-

ject had been referred, speaks in terms of strong commendation of a paper by M. Serullas, respecting a new compound of chlorine and cyanogen, or perchlorate of cyanogen, cyanic acid. It is said that the facts which this chemist has discovered are of the highest importance, and that he is entitled to admiration for the courage with which he exposed himself to the serious dangers that attended his various investigations and experiments.

Vaucluse.—The lovers of romance will regret to hear that the neighbourhood of this celebrated fountain has been much deteriorated by time and the progress of society. A large paper-mill occupies the place where once stood the venerable cistle of the lords of the soil. The Sorgue, formerly so poetical, is become an industrious stream, and gives motion to a number of manufactories of various kinds.

Optics.—M. de Loche, a member of the Académie des Sciences, has published an account of an optical phenomenon, on which he bestows the name of "apparent translucidity;" because it consists in giving the effect of transparency to an opaque body interposed between one of the eyes of the observer and a distant object, in such a manner that the details of that object are projected on the surface of the opaque body, and that the two images are seen in superposition.

New Thermometer.—A horizontal thermometer has been invented at Paris, of which report speaks highly. A letter from M. de Humboldt characterises it as an admirable instrument.

Homography.—Such is the name (implying that the representation is derived directly from the object represented,) which the inventor of a new mode of lithography devoted to the representation of plants has given to his invention. The Académie des Sciences has referred the consideration of it to a committee.

Egyptian Cubit.—M. Jomard has lately published a letter on a new cubit, recently found at Memphis by M. Drovetti, comparing it with the various measures of the same description hitherto known; and with which it appears to agree in essential respects, although it differs from them in minute particulars.

A Tough morsel.—A French writer, speaking of the relative situation of England and Ireland, says that the larger island devoured the smaller, but has never been able to digest it!

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

A second edition is preparing of an *Itinerary of Provence and the Rhone*, made during the year 1816, by John Hughes, A.M. of Oriel College, Oxford, and illustrated by views from the drawings of De Wint, and engraved by W. B. Cooke, G. Cooke, and J. C. Allen, uniform with Batty and other European scenery.

Mr. Valpy is now publishing a series of School and College Greek Classics, with English notes, in a duodecimo form: the *Medea* and *Hecuba* of Euripides, as well as the *Edipus* of Sophocles, are ready; and *Thucydides*, *Hecuba*, *Xenophon*, &c. are to follow in succession.

Mr. Atherton announces the second volume of his poem entitled the *Fall of Nineveh*, for March next.

The extensive historical work by Sir James Mackintosh, so long expected, is now so nearly ready for the press, that the first volume will, we are assured, appear in the early part of the ensuing season. Contemporaneously with this work, Sir James has been induced to prepare for the Cabinet Cyclopædia a *Popular History of England*, forming three volumes of that publication. Such a sketch of English history has been long a desideratum in our literature.

The *Natural History of the Microscope*, with the *Phænomena* presented by them under observation, &c. illustrated by coloured engravings, from drawings of the actual Living Subjects, by C. R. Goring, M.D. and Andrew Pritchard, will shortly appear in Paris.

Miss Isabel Hill is about to publish a volume of *Holiday Dreams*, or *Light Reading in Poetry and Prose*. This authoress six years ago made a favourable impression on the literary world by a drama called the *Fort Child*; Constance, a prose tale; and *Zaphna*, or the

Amulet, a poem;—and has since contributed to some of the *Annals*, and other periodical works.

French Voyage of Discovery.—The voyage round the world performed by Captain Duperrey in La Coquille, during the years 1822, 1823, 1824, and 1825, is now in a course of publication at Paris. This work will be in four divisions: 1. Zoological; 2. Botanical; 3. The History of the Voyage; 4. Hydrographical and Physical. The Zoological division (two volumes 4to., with an atlas of about 140 coloured plates), edited by Messrs. Lesson and Garnot, will be in twenty-five Numbers, eight of which are now on sale. The Botanical division (one volume 4to., with an atlas of about 115 plates, twenty-six coloured), edited by Messrs. Bory de Saint-Vincent and Adolphe Brongniart, from the materials collected by M. Durville, the botanist of the expedition, will immediately follow: four Numbers of it are on sale. The History of the Voyage (two volumes 4to., with an atlas of sixty coloured plates), to which are annexed vocabularies of savage languages; will be published concurrently with the Zoological division: two Numbers are on sale. The Hydrographical, Nautical, and Physical division (one volume 4to., with an atlas of fifty coloured plates) will be published in the course of the year. Judging from the Numbers which have appeared, this will be a publication of great value. The History of the Voyage will be the more interesting, as the navigators had the opportunity of successively visiting and comparing the two opposite coasts of South America; and, farther, by comparing New Zealand and New Holland, as well as Oceania with Polynesia. The numerous vocabularies will afford abundant matter for philological study. The zoological and botanical Numbers which have appeared are exceedingly curious; and the plates are splendid.

In the Press.—Part I. of a Catalogue Raisonné of the Works of the most eminent Dutch, Flemish, and French Painters, with a copious description of their principal Pictures, the prices they have at various times been sold for on the Continent and in England, and a reference to the Galleries and Private Collections in which a large portion of them are at present,—the names of the artists by whom they have been engraved, with other incidental observations; by John Smith, picture-dealer, Great Marlborough Street.—A second edition of Mr. Deverux Conway's *Solitary Walks through Many Lands: A Personal Narrative of a Journey through Norway, &c.* by the same author, is to form an early volume of Constable's Miscellany.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Winstanley on the Arts, &c. 8vo. 5s.—Jennings' Paris, Part I. 4to. 5s.; India papers, 10s.—Treatise on Surveying and Plan Drawing, 8vo. 10s.—Lady's Library, Part I. 2s. 6d.—Flowers of Antiquity and Wit, 16mo. 5s. bds.—Old Ways and New Ways, folio, 6s. 6d.; coloured, 12s. 6d.—Westall's Great Britain, Part I. 4to. 5s.; India paper, 10s.—Q's First Spelling Book, 12mo. 2s. 6d.; coloured, 3s. 6d.—Tales of Fashion, by the Author of *Glitter and Gaiety*, 3 vols. post 8vo. 12s. 6d.—The Living and the Dead, *Stanzas*, post 8vo. 10s. 6d.—Frat's Laws relating to Friendly Societies, 12mo. 4s. bds.—Largely's England, Vol. VII. 4to. 12s. 6d.—Tales, by the Author of *Antidote to Miseries*, 12mo. 6s. bds.—Clissold's Prophecies of Christ, 8vo. 6s. 6d.—Liber Scholasticus, an Account of Fellowships, &c. 12mo. 10s. 6d.—Stagall's Manual for Apothecaries' Hall, 18mo. 5s. bds.—Horne's Manual of Parochial Psalmody, 18mo. 1s. 6d. canvas; 4s. fine, black calf.—Henshaw's Psalm and Hymn Tunes for Home's Manual, 6s. 6d.—Mémoires du Maréchal Suchet, Vol. I. 8vo. 10s. 6d.—A Second Judgment of Babylon the Great, 3 vols. post 8vo. 12s. 6d.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1829.

January.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday . . . 22	From 19 to 29.	29.73 to 29.62
Friday . . . 23	24 . . . 21.	29.56 . . . 29.50
Saturday . . . 24	18 . . . 27.	29.50 . . . 29.55
Sunday . . . 25	19 . . . 30.	29.58 . . . 29.61
Monday . . . 26	22 . . . 44.	29.06 . . . 30.13
Tuesday . . . 27	34 . . . 41.	29.12 Stationary
Wednesday 28	31 . . . 42.	29.38 to 29.51

Wind variable, prevailing S.E. and N.E. Generally cloudy, snowing frequently during the 26th: a heavy shower of rain on the morning of the 27th.

Edinburgh. 51° 37' 32" N.
Longitude 3° 51' W. of Greenwich.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

As anxious to give our readers, and especially those distant from London, as perfect an idea as we could of that most extraordinary work the Colosseum, we have this week devoted a considerable space to its illustration: owing to which we are rather cramped in other parts, and obliged to abridge and defer many things intended for publication. Should any further references to, or explanations of, our plate appear to be necessary, we shall return to the subject next week.

We cannot yet approve of C. A. sufficiently for insertion: nor of J. S. of Trinity College.

We must negative Warkworth. Much as we admire P. A.'s subject, we are sorry to say we think his lines want regularity and originality.—T. M. also declined.

To Virgil Vernon: we are not in the habit of inserting extracts from unpublished poems.

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